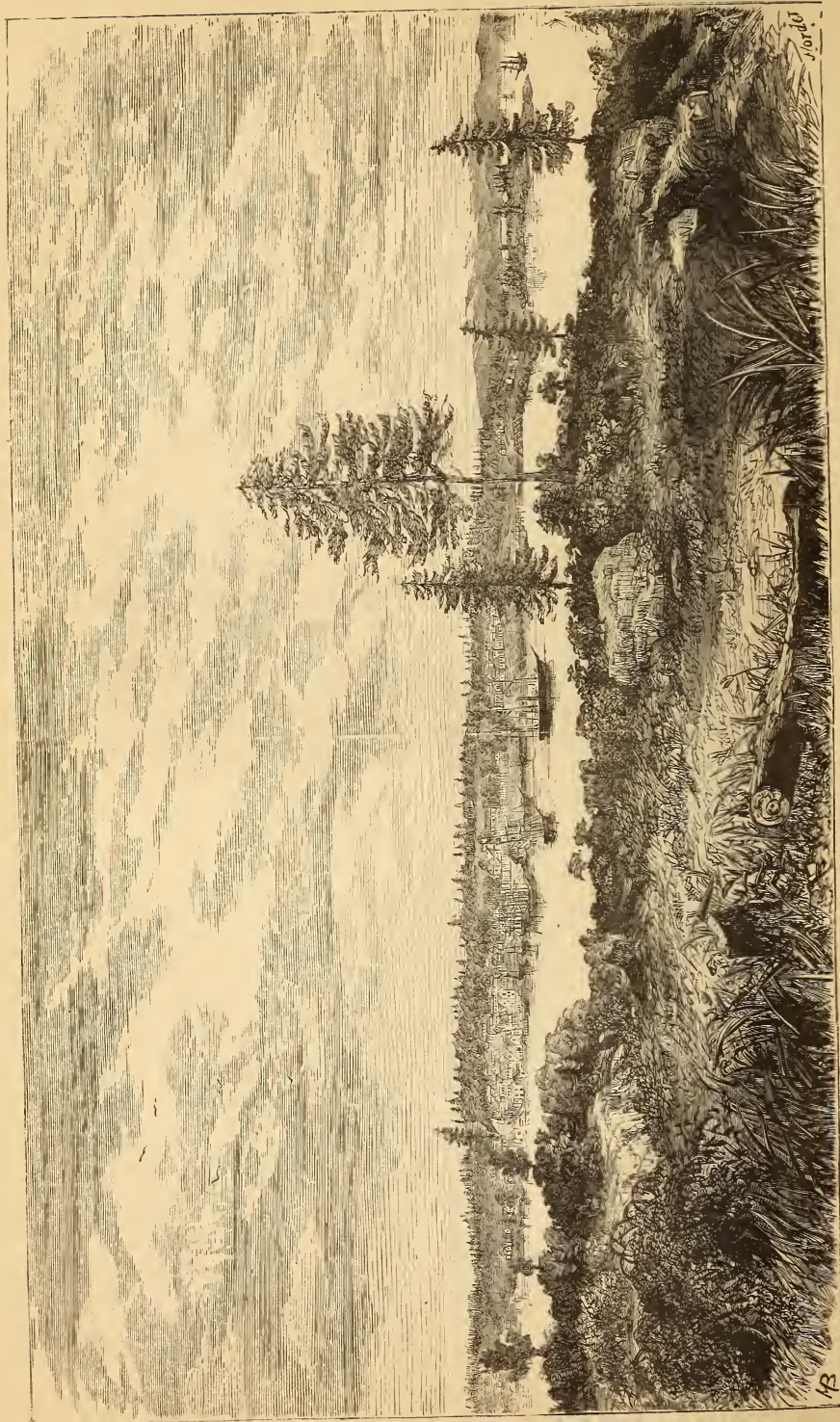




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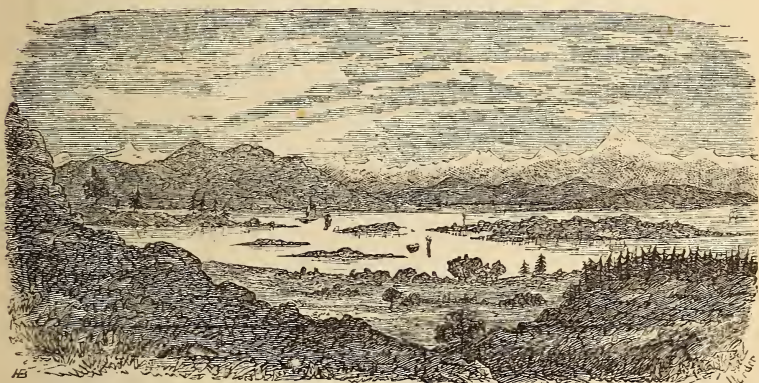


Harbour and Site of Victoria.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Agent-General in London.

515
1533



VIEW NEAR VICTORIA, FROM A SKETCH BY A. G. DALLAS, ESQ.

INFORMATION FOR EMIGRANTS.

ISSUED BY THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR THE PROVINCE,
4 Lime Street Square, E.C.,
London, England.

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1875

I shall be glad to be advised of any errors or omissions, for rectification in subsequent yearly editions.

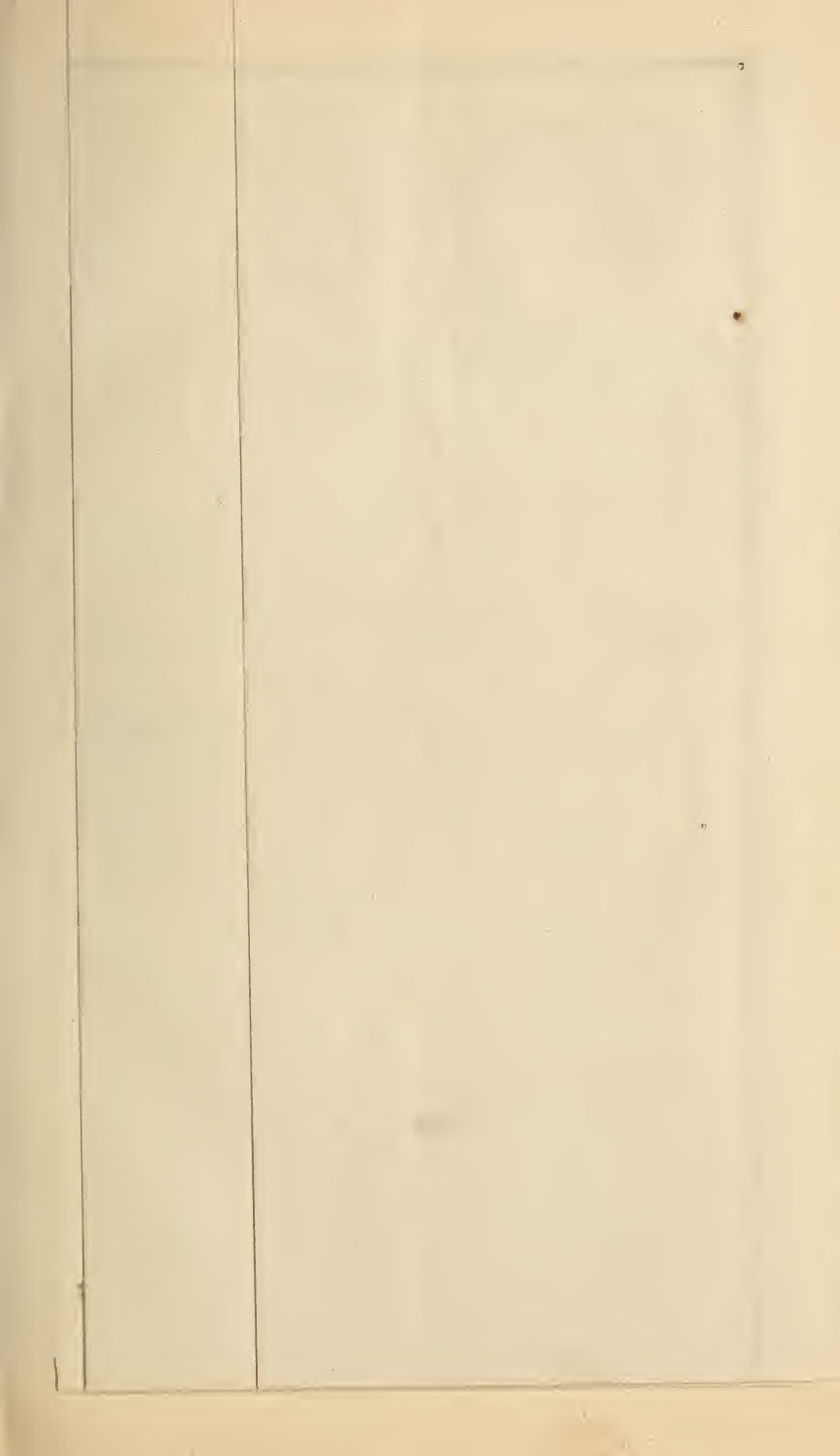
The Index is at the end of the Book.

GILBERT MALCOLM SPROAT,

Agent-General.

4 *Lime Street Square, E.C.,*
London, England,

January 1, 1875.



EMIGRATION MAP
OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

INFORMATION FOR EMIGRANTS.

THE Agent-General for British Columbia thinks it necessary to furnish the following information for the assistance of persons desirous of emigrating to that province :—

Now that the Government of Canada have shipped materials for making the Canadian Pacific Railway in British Columbia, and have come under a fresh obligation to proceed vigorously with its construction, the province attracts renewed attention, and settlers are coming into it to take up land for farms. There are many good places open for settlement, but the man of small means, particularly, cannot spend his time and money in visiting all parts of the province, in order to find the place that will best suit his wants and circumstances. This Handbook will give, among other information, some general idea of the different sections of the province that have been tested by *practical farmers*.

The occupation of gold-mining exists still as the principal industry of British Columbia and as an unfailing attraction to population—4½ millions sterling having been exported within ten years—but other industries have appeared, and promise well. The chief of these has been coal. Within ten years 330,395 tons of coal have been shipped from Nanaimo. Many articles of provincial produce, besides gold and coal,—namely, lumber (sawn wood), furs, hides, wool, fish, cranberries, &c.—figure now in the list of exports. A small settlement of practical *experienced* men is found in nearly every district that is suitable for farming. Such men know, in some degree, what their own land will produce or support, and they also have a general idea of the extent of similar land near to them. Availing myself of the wider sources of information thus opened, I hope to be able to give a picture of the province which is neither underdrawn nor overdrawn. Truth, not exaggeration, is the basis of these pages. The information that will be laid before the reader, on each point, will be fully borne out by that best of tests—Experience.

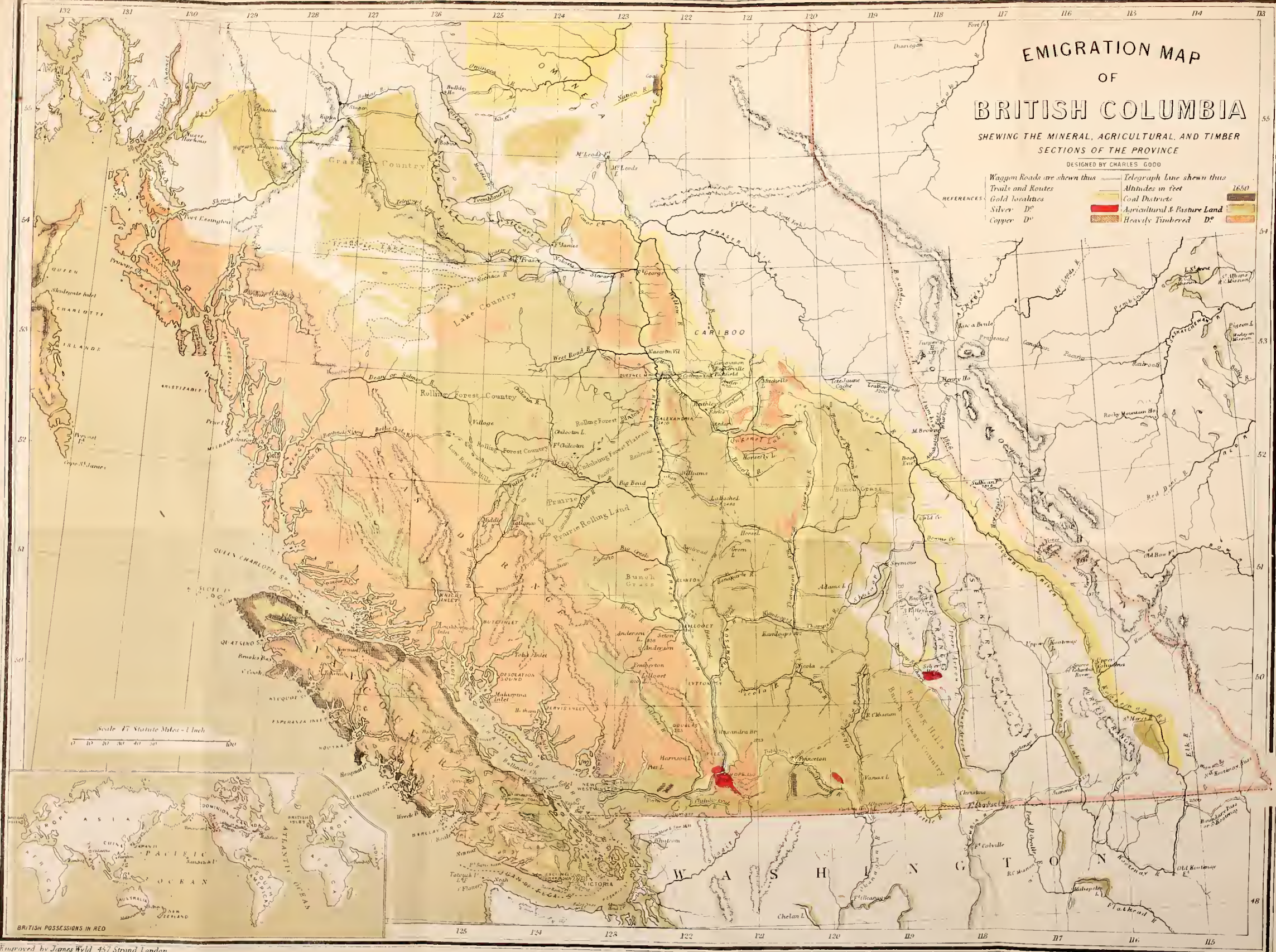
It has been somewhat unfortunate that the rich gold-fields of Cariboo are among rough mountains, with a severe climate, and that the trunk road to Cariboo runs for a long way through an unprepossessing part of the province. Several persons who have travelled on this road only, and have afterwards left the country, have in good faith tried to describe British Columbia. These writers I do not complain of, though their position is like that of a foreigner

EMIGRATION MAP OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SHewing THE MINERAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND TIMBER
SECTIONS OF THE PROVINCE

DESIGNED BY CHARLES GOOD

Wagon Roads are shown thus — Telegraph Line shown thus —
 Trails and Routes — Altitudes in feet — 1650
 Gold localities — Coal Districts —
 Silver D^o — Agricultural & Pasture Land —
 Copper D^o — Heavily Timbered D^o —



who should attempt to describe England after travelling through Wales on a public coach. I complain of another class of writers—writers who are deficient in fairness and candour. In the earlier days of British Columbia, as of all young British colonies, certain persons came into the country who had a strong desire to make a living without taking off their coats—a desire which could not be gratified. The friends of these persons at home sent them money, which they put into silly investments. They rode to the diggings, and rode back again. They hung, like mendicants, round the doors of the Government offices. They croaked in the streets, spent their time idly in bar-rooms, and finally disappeared. Having in some manner got back to England, several of these persons wrote scraps in magazines, or vamped up books about British Columbia. I might collect these wails of the unsuitable into a list, but it is enough simply to state that nobody of any position in British Columbia—no settler worth his salt—has ever written against the country. On the contrary, persons who are there, settled comfortably after overcoming early difficulties, write to their friends to join them.

The intending emigrant may read the following books about the province as good books written by honest writers :—

- 1862.—‘Prize Essay on Vancouver Island.’ By Charles Forbes, M.D., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), late Staff Surgeon, Royal Navy.
- 1863.—‘Prize Essay on British Columbia.’ By the Rev. R. C. Lundin Brown, M.A., formerly Minister at Lillooet.
- 1872.—‘Prize Essay on British Columbia’ (after its union with Canada). By A. C. Anderson, Esq., J.P., formerly a partner of the Hudson’s Bay Company.
- ‘Vancouver Island Explorations, and Papers relating to the British Columbian Botanical Expedition;’ ‘Studies of the Forests and Forest Life of North-west America.’ By Robert Brown, M.A., Ph.D., F.L.S., F.R.G.S., President of the Royal Physical Society, Edinburgh.
- ‘Vancouver Island and British Columbia.’ By Matthew Macfie, Esq., F.R.G.S.
- ‘Facts and Figures relating to Vancouver Island and British Columbia.’ By J. D. Pemberton, Esq.
- ‘Vancouver Island.’ By Dr. Rattray, R.N.
- ‘Four Years in British Columbia.’ By Captain R. C. Mayne, R.N., C.B.
- ‘Report on British Columbia.’ By the Hon. H. L. Langevin, C.B., Minister of Public Works of the Dominion of Canada.

I wish to express myself very carefully, but I believe that the recommendations of British Columbia by the ‘Times’ twelve years ago, were, upon the whole, well based, and that the country will justify what was said of it by that far-seeing journal. “British Columbia abounds with every natural and material wealth. It enjoys law and order. There you will find elbow-room, a fair field and no favour. Go to British Columbia and be a free man.”

Many circumstances, however (some of which will be learned from this Handbook), require that emigration to the province should at present be undertaken very prudently, and with clear notions of what settling in a young country really means. One of the duties of the office of Agent-General, which I hold, is to give information to intending emigrants, so that they may not

make any large mistakes. If unsuitable persons go to the province and do not succeed, they must blame their own folly. The province, unquestionably, is a very desirable place for suitable settlers, compared with any other territory on the North American continent.

A few Facts.

Every reader, perhaps, may not be aware that there is a strange contrast between the surface, soil, climate, &c., of the countries on the Atlantic side of the continent, and the countries on the Pacific Ocean side of the continent. British Columbia (English), Oregon, and California (American) are the three principal countries on the Pacific side. These are fine countries, but of course each has advantages and disadvantages. I know all of them, and in my opinion British Columbia, upon the whole, has been most favoured by nature, and is the best of the three countries for securing a homestead in—for the following substantial reasons:—

Taking the whole year round, or taking a series of years, the climate is better for farming, and more healthy and enjoyable. The wheat, barley, and hops of British Columbia beat those of California, and her root-crops beat those of Oregon. British Columbia has more coal and better coal, finer harbours, superior fish, sounder trees. It is reasonably believed, and partly proved, that her mineral lands, containing precious metals, are very extensive. The public domain (which is at the disposal of the people of the province) is sold more cheaply; the taxation is immensely less; the laws are better carried out; the people have as much political freedom as men can desire.

These are facts which ignorance only can lead any person to gainsay, and I state them, at the outset, so that they may be examined and appreciated.

British Columbia not Remote.

Men frequently call at my office in London who, twenty days before, were in British Columbia. The Canadian Pacific Railway will bring the province within a *fortnight's travel* from England.

The Great Snow Question.

British Columbia has not a snowy winter. There is snow, but not much snow. In cold countries they have a saying that snow is “the poor man’s manure,” because if there is too little of it his wheat may be “winterkilled.” Gold miners, also, in some places, find snow so useful in their work that they say, gratefully, “snow is gold.” Still, the world in general is prejudiced against snow, and I therefore record here:—

- (1.) That the great mountain ranges in Oregon and California have deeper snow than is found upon the same ranges in British Columbia.
- (2.) That *British Columbia has not a snowy winter such as Eastern Canada and the Northern States of the Union have. The British Columbian winter is the winter of England and of France.* (See “Climate,” p. 14.)

A Foreigner's First Impression on landing in British Columbia.

An American traveller, writing in 1872 to the Boston (United States) 'Globe,' said :—

"Victoria is emphatically a beautiful city, for, unlike the majority of Pacific Coast towns, it deserves the name. The harbour is the prettiest on the Pacific Coast. Coming up the harbour, you see the main part of the city ahead of you extending into suburbs on both sides. The shores are rocky and picturesque, and the houses and grounds around them have an air of neatness rarely seen in so new a country. You are immediately struck on landing with the fact that everything is English—the people have the unmistakable English look about them, and the flag and arms of England stare you in the face at every turn."

Victoria has nine hotels, making up 534 beds, besides several suburban hotels. The resident population is about 5000. Visitors are numerous at all seasons.

What the United States Government thinks of British Columbian Coal.

By a late order of the War Department at Washington, United States, it was decreed that one "cord" (8 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet) of merchantable oak-wood should be considered equal to :—

1800 lbs.	Nanaimo (Vancouver Island) coal	
2200	„ Bellingham Bay .	} Coals produced in the United States.
2400	„ Seattle	
2500	„ Rocky Mountain .	
2600	„ Coos	
2600	„ Mount Diablo .	

What Farmers have Produced in British Columbia.

Beef, from natural grass, equal to the best Aberdeen stall-fed ; mutton, as choice as prime South of England ; fine wheat, barley, oats, rye, Indian corn, hops, timothy hay, potatoes, carrots, turnips, cabbages, tomatoes, musk-melons, water-melons, grape-vine, tobacco, broom-corn, sweet almond, castor-oil plant, peach, and all fruits of the temperate climes, exuberantly.

Minerals.

Country abounds in minerals of a high character ; Actual mining industries—gold, coal, and silver (see p. 76) ; copper very promising ; indications of many of the base metals everywhere.

Investments waiting for Men and Money.

Farming—*dairy—mixed—cattle*
—*sheep* (see pp. 39, 48, 59,
70, 83, 84).
Gold mining (see p. 75).
Coal „ (see p. 79).

Saw-milling (see p. 81).
Fishing (see p. 87).
Flax (see p. 90).
Tobacco (see p. 91).

The Country—its History and Natural Divisions.

The country is divided into two perfectly distinct parts—Vancouver Island and the Mainland. These were constituted colonies, the first in 1849, and the second in 1858; they were then united in 1866, under the name of British Columbia, and so continued until the 20th July, 1871, at which date the colony became one of the provinces of the flourishing Dominion of Canada.

With greater correctness, perhaps, it may be said that the province is divided into *three* instead of into two distinct parts.

The Rocky Mountains form the eastern boundary of the province. Speaking in a general sort of way, it may be said that a long and massive uplift on the Mainland, called the Cascade Range, runs parallel to the Rocky Range, and divides the country between it and the Pacific Ocean into two divisions, namely, the “East Cascade Region,” and the “West Cascade Region” (see page 47 and Appendix).

The islands of Vancouver, Queen Charlotte, &c., might be considered to make a third division, though, climatically, they belong to the West Cascade Region.

Population (excluding Indians).

About 20,000, which is increasing yearly. Nationalities—British Isles (many Scotch and Welsh), Eastern Province of Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark. Coloured, 750; Chinamen, 1500.

Indians.

Probably about 30,000, quite quiet, over the whole mainland and island; rather saucy on west coast of Vancouver Island and in Queen Charlotte Island; useful as common labourers, and not without capabilities as artisans; some take to farming and have cattle, others carry on mining with “rockers” on the Thompson and Fraser Rivers; altogether, the Indians contribute very largely to the trade of the province. They use large quantities of flour.



SETTLE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND REGISTER YOUR HOMESTEAD.



The soil of British Columbia is, as above said, at the disposal of the Parliament of the Province, not of the General Government as in the United States.

Public Lands.

The Land Act of 1874 makes most liberal provision for the acquisition by settlers of land, either as Free Homesteads, or by purchase. **Land can be secured against seizure.**

Free Homesteads.

Heads of families, widows, or single men of 18 years and upwards may obtain free grants of 320 acres eastward of the Cascade range of mountains, or of 160 acres in other parts of the Province. The settler selects his own land, records it in the office of the District Commissioner, the fee for which is

two dollars, and at once enters upon occupation. After two years' occupancy, and certain conditions as to improvements having been complied with, a Crown grant or conveyance will be made, the only expense of which will be five dollars—so that a farm of 320 acres, or of 160 acres, may be obtained in a beautiful and healthful country for about thirty shillings!

Sale of Surveyed Lands.

Lands, the surveys of which have been duly made and confirmed by notice in the Government Gazette, are open for purchase at the rate of one dollar an acre—to be paid in one full payment, or in two annual payments of 50 cents per acre: payment to be made in two years from time of purchase.

Unsurveyed Lands.

Persons desirous of purchasing unsurveyed, unoccupied, and unreserved Crown lands must first have the land surveyed by a surveyor approved by the Government. The regulations as to the sale, purchase, and price of the land are the same as in the case of surveyed land. Should there be two or more applicants for the same tract of land, and a prior right to either or any of the applicants is not established to the satisfaction of the Government, the land may be tendered for by the applicants and sold to the highest bidder.

Tracts of land near the land actually occupied can be *leased for grazing purposes*, on terms designed to be liberal to the pre-emptor. Such leased land is liable to be "pre-empted" by others; but, in that case, the lessee's rent is reduced proportionately.

Land covered with wild hay can also be leased in the above way, but not more than 500 acres of it to any one person, and not for longer than five years.

Mining and timber leases will be named under their proper heads further on.

Military and naval officers in her Majesty's service are entitled to free grants on certain conditions. The Agent-General will give information.

Homestead Act.

Most important Act. If a settler have a wife and children, this Act must be dear to him; the farm and buildings, when registered, cannot be taken for debt incurred after the registration; it is free up to a value not greater than 2500 dollars (500*l.* English); goods and chattels are also free up to 500 dollars (100*l.* English); cattle "farmed on shares" are also protected by an Exemption Act.

Farm lands in private hands may be bought at almost any price, from 5 dollars (20*s.* English) to 40 dollars (8*l.* English) per acre, according to situation and improvement. Terms of purchase are as agreed—generally a portion in cash, and the balance at stated future periods, bearing interest.

The Government of Canada (which as landowners have taken the place of the defunct Canadian Pacific Railway Company), the Puget Sound Agricultural Association, and the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company at Nanaimo, which companies own land in the province, are anxious to promote settlement on their lands on fair terms. I believe that the latter company, in the case of working-men, will exchange town lots in the thriving town of Nanaimo for land elsewhere in the province, in order to stimulate the growth

of a town destined to be important. It is a cheering sign, when all persons in the province recognise more clearly the great truth that they have a common interest.

Popular Names for Lands—a Word to Intending Settlers.

Most countries have peculiar names of their own for agricultural lands, and the immigrant, on arriving in British Columbia, will hear men talking of "prairies," "beaver-dam lands," "bottom lands," "tide lands," and "flats." A few words to explain these terms may assist him in selecting a proper location. The term "prairie," on the "Pacific slope," does not mean the treeless sea of grass which is called by that name in the centre of America, east from the Rocky range. The Pacific slope prairies may be classed, broadly, as "wet" and "dry" prairies.

"Wet prairies" are level spaces at the meeting (forks) of rivers. They are often overflowed in early summer by river "freshets." This kind of prairie is also found at the mouths of tidal rivers, where the land is overflowed in winter by high tides raised by wind. Extensive specimens of both these kinds of "wet prairie" may be seen on the lower part of Fraser River. They are generally free of timber, except perhaps some alder shrubs, and produce a coarse grass called "swamp hay." Cattle do well on the wet prairies, but cows not so well on the salt-water marsh. These prairies need dyking and draining in some parts. The soil generally is very rich, and they are considered desirable "locations." In British Columbia they are free from malaria and ague.

The choice pieces of land scattered through forests, and known as "alder land" (or easily-drained swamp), seem to be, in fact, "wet prairies," on which the alder bushes have grown to be trees. Another kind of "wet prairie" is "beaver-dam land," that is, flat land made marshy by beavers having dammed small streams which run through it. This is very good land generally. Small marshes also are common at the head-waters of streams—grassy spots among the rough mountains, which are very pleasant to the traveller and to his horse. We may also class as "wet prairies" the open marshes ("tide lands" or "flats") where the sea-coast is low and shelves back. These appear to be portions of the raised coast-line. The sand-drift encroaches on the wet ground, and the plants of the two localities grow almost together. It is sometimes difficult to get fresh water for cattle on these "tide lands."

"Dry prairies" are open spaces generally near rivers. Some have very rich soil, but they are not generally so rich as the wet prairies. They have fine grass, beautiful flowers, and often a dense crop of ferns not liked by farmers. The pine forest bounds them abruptly like a regiment of trees called to a halt, suggesting to the observer that the "dry prairie" is the remnant of larger open tracts which existed in some age with a different climate, and that the pines have encroached. The dry prairies are seldom extensive in the West Cascade region.

"Bottom lands" are flat lands in river-valleys or adjoining rivers, dry enough to be classed as "dry prairie" land. They generally bear such trees as the maple, ash, crab apple, with a stray fir. These trees are easily cleared, and as the alluvial soil of the bottom lands is often highly productive, these lands are desirable places to settle upon.

The term "dry prairie," or simply "prairie," seems to be popularly applied in the East Cascade region (comparatively an unwooded region) to any open flat tract, not distinctively a valley, and not large enough to be called a plain or plateau. The "Grand Prairie," north-west from Okanagan Lake, is 16 miles long, and about 2 miles wide, bounded on either side by mountains, between which flows a river. It is in fact the piece of a valley, and would be called one, were it longer.

I need not mention names given to the high lands in British Columbia, as there is nothing peculiar in these names, except, perhaps, the term "bench," which is applied to the raised level spaces, or terraces, in some of the river-valleys. These terraces run at intervals along both sides of the rivers for miles in length; and they recede where the mountains retire, for distances back varying from a few acres to a few miles in breadth. They are objects of curiosity and speculation, and, from the regularity and evenness of their structure, add much to the beauty of the rude scenes in which they occur. They generally appear on both sides of the river, and in some places are multiplied into several successive level plateaux, rising one above the other as they recede from the bank.

Transport and Travel.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

There are no really navigable rivers nor trunk-roads in the island. Several district roads are good, particularly near Victoria. The Canadian Pacific Railway is being made from Esquimalt along the east coast of the island, but, for the moment, the sea is the main highway. A Government steamer goes weekly to Cowichan, Maple Bay, Admiral Island, Chemanis, and Nanaimo, and to Comox fortnightly.* The rates of fare are as follows:—

From Victoria to—

Cowichan, Maple Bay, and Admiral Island, single ticket, two dollars and fifty cents (10s. English), return ditto, four dollars (16s. English).

Chemanis, single ticket, three dollars (12s. English), return ditto, five dollars (20s. English).

Nanaimo, single ticket, four dollars (16s. English), return ditto, six dollars and fifty cents. (26s. English).

Comox, single ticket, six dollars (24s. English), return ditto, ten dollars (40s. English).

Breakfast and tea, 50 cents (2s. English) each meal; dinner, 75 cents (3s. English).

Freight.—To all places between Victoria and Nanaimo, three dollars (12s. English) per ton of forty feet.

From Victoria to Comox four dollars (16s. English) per ton.

All cattle to Cowichan, Maple Bay, and Admiral Island, three dollars (12s. English) per head.

To Chemanis, four dollars (16s. English); Nanaimo, five dollars (20s. English); and to Comox, six dollars (24s. English).

* Names of places in this Handbook are spelt as in the Map of the Province, 9th May, 1870, with additions January 1871. .

Small animals, such as calves, sheep, pigs, &c., from fifty cents (2s. English) to one dollar and fifty cents (6s. English).

Mileage.—From Victoria to Cowichan, 36 miles; thence to Maple Bay, 9 miles; thence to Admiral Island, 5 miles; thence to Chemanis, 7 miles; thence to Nanaimo, 22 miles; and thence to Comox, 55 miles.

A second steamer runs along the East Coast, when the traffic seems to require an additional one.

VICTORIA (IN VANCOUVER ISLAND) AND NEW WESTMINSTER (ON MAINLAND).

A steamer goes regularly twice a week, at least, between Victoria and New Westminster; running time, 6 hours.

NEW WESTMINSTER TO YALE (HEAD OF NAVIGATION ON FRASER RIVER FROM SEA).

Stern-wheel steamers, which frequently take a day or more according to state of the stream. An excellent waggon road has been lately finished, and farming homesteads are being made along it. The Government of the Dominion have undertaken to make a waggon road through the province, but it is not yet located.

YALE TO THE INTERIOR.

(See *Roads on the Map*.)

Stage coaches make weekly journeys from Yale (head of steamboat navigation on the Fraser) to Barkerville, Cariboo, and coaches also run weekly from Cache Creek (near the meeting of the Bonaparte and Thompson Rivers) to Okanagan, in close connection, at Cache Creek, with the above coaches from Yale to Barkerville. The coach-owners carry passengers and freight, deliver parcels, make collections, and execute commissions.

TOTAL COST OF ROADS.

ABOUT £400,000 ENGLISH (\$2,000,000).

LAST YEAR'S VOTE OF THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE FOR ROADS.

Repairs to Roads and Trails throughout the Province:—

	Dols.
Victoria District—Roads, Streets and Bridges	20,000 00
Esquimalt	8,000 00
Cowichan North Cowichan Municipality	2,500 00
,, Roads from Goldstream to Sayward's Mill	18,000 00
,, Roads, Streets, and Bridges	1,000 00
,, Trunk road, Sayward's Mill to Chemanis	5,000 00
Salt Spring Island Municipality	1,500 00
Nanaimo Roads, Streets and Bridges	15,800 00
Comox Roads, Trails, and Bridges	8,500 00
Courtenay River Bridge	3,000 00
New Westminster District, Langley Municipality	1,500 00
,, Chilliwack Municipality	1,500 00
,, Roads, Street, and Bridges	86,600 00

Carried forward 172,900 00

	<i>Brought forward</i>	..	..	172,900	00
Yale District Roads, Streets, and Bridges	..	..	..	80,600	00
Lillooet ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	..	..	..	8,800	00
Kootenay ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	..	..	..	6,500	00
Cariboo ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	..	..	..	36,500	00
Cassiar Trail from Fort Fraser to Dease's Lake	..	..	..	5,000	00
Supplementary vote	..	..	..	12,395	00

\$322,695 00

(= £64,539 Eng.).

TAXES FOR DISTRICT ROADS.

Every settler pays 2 dollars poll-tax. Land up to 10 acres is free. Land-owners having more than 10 acres pay a yearly road-tax of 4 cents (2*d.* English) per acre, which is reduced to 2 cents per acre for land leased from the Crown for pastoral or other purposes. The money is spent where collected.

DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH COLUMBIAN WAGGON-ROADS.

Superior to the public roads of most young countries. They are 18 feet wide, the surface being covered with broken stone, where (as in most parts along the Fraser and Thompson Rivers) such material is at hand, or with gravel well cambered up in the centre, with ditches on one or both sides where required.

With the exception of some short pitches as steep as one foot in ten, the sharpest inclines throughout the trunk waggon-road from Yale to Savona's Ferry are of 1 foot in 12, the curves being easy, and the bridges and culverts substantially built of timber.

Loads of 7 and 8 tons are hauled along them, by mules or oxen, at an average draught load of 1200 lbs. to 1300 lbs. to each animal, and the mail coach, drawn by six horses, travels between Yale and Cariboo at the rate of 9 miles an hour.

THE YOUNG-COUNTRY ROAD GRIEVANCE.

This is the grievance of settlers in all countries, but with less reason in British Columbia than in many other places. Considering the newness of the country, there are excellent roads both on the island and mainland. It is inevitable, in all young countries, that fine districts should be unoccupied for want of roads. The cure takes a long time. In wooded countries especially, the want of roads and the difficulty and expense of making roads and keeping them open, are great drawbacks to settlement. When settlers go back from the road already made the obstruction and expense begin anew. Fortunately, British Columbia, in addition to her fertile wooded lands, has alluvial flats, prairies, and extensive irrigable valleys, open or partly open, through which roads can be made without excessive difficulty, when needed and the province is able to make them.

The work of road-making is being yearly prosecuted with vigour, and many districts that were a short time ago difficult of access, have now good roads and bridges connecting them with the main roads of the Province.

RIVER AND LAKE NAVIGATION.

Steamboats can run up from New Westminster to Douglas, the head of steamboat navigation on Harrison Lake (50 miles from mouth of Harrison River), as well as from New Westminster to Yale, but the Douglas route to the interior is not at present used.

The Fraser River, above Yale, is not available at present for much navigation. A steamer relieves transport on the waggon road when required, from Soda Creek, 20 miles below Alexandria, to Quesnel (see Map), 40 miles above that point; or some 20 miles higher when necessary. The navigation is then interrupted by a rapid, the ascent of which is not attempted. Above this point there is clear navigation for steamers for a distance of 60 miles, to within 20 miles of Fort George, where another rapid, impracticable for steamers, occurs. From this point upwards, both by the Stuart and Fraser Lake branches, and in the direction of Tête Jaune's Cache, there are stretches very favourable for steam navigation; but the occasional breaks are a great drawback. Nevertheless, with the extension of mining operations these portions of the river will doubtless in time be made available, in parts, so as to meet the increased demand for transport; and inducements for settlement will thus arise in the upper portion of the province which do not at present exist.

There is a useful stretch of navigation on the Thompson River. From Savona's, at the lower (western) end of Kamloops Lake, uninterrupted steamboat navigation extends through Kamloops Lake, and up the South Thompson River to the upper (eastern) end of Great Shuswap Lake, a distance of 115 miles, and also up the North Branch of Thompson River, which joins the South Thompson at Fort Kamloops, to a distance of 85 miles from the latter post.

The Columbia, Nasse, and Skena Rivers are navigable for short distances by light steamboats. So also, of course, are the Okanagan and other lakes.

Steamboats now run from Victoria to Fort Wrangel at the mouth of the Stickeen River, where they connect with light river-boats for the new mining district of Cassiar.

Travelling may be said to be at present very expensive in British Columbia, whether by steamboat or coach, compared with the cost of travel in Eastern Canada or England.

Climate.

This is perhaps the main point in choosing a place for a home. Parents will agree with me that fair fields and meadows are little to the emigrant, if they generate fever-producing miasm and vapour. What are soft breezes if they waft the seeds of pestilence? What cares a man for golden grain and mellow fruits, or indeed for all that this world can yield, if disease annually visit his dwelling? British Columbia may be said to be the very land of health—for man, for beast, for tree. This fact will have a mighty influence on her future.

General Characteristics of Climate.

The fine climate should be known everywhere—variable, but healthful and agreeable—nights cool, very suitable to the Anglo-Saxon constitution, and, indeed, to all races and temperaments—the altitude, irregularity of surface, serene air and absence of marshy plains, promise health and long life to the settler—no malaria or ague—good in cases of functional and nervous debility

—makes people feel vigorous and wide awake—the climate of a large part of the East Cascade region not unfavourable for chest affections. Over a great portion of the province the climate is that of England, with rather agreeable differences—no biting east winds, for instance. Over another portion, the climate resembles that of France. The larger lakes do not freeze over, nor do the large rivers ever close entirely up. Severe winters seem to come about once every eight or ten years, but what we call “severe winters” are less severe than the ordinary winters in Eastern Canada or the Northern States of the Union. Elevated districts, of course, have the climate that everywhere belongs to them, but even the roughest mountain climate in British Columbia is healthful.

Climatic Divisions.

WEST CASCADE REGION.

Near the sea—say, west of Cascade Range generally, and in Vancouver Island, seldom over 80° Fahrenheit in shade on the hottest day in summer, and rarely falling to 20° Fahrenheit in winter. Genial, though rather humid; humidity increases as you go north. Summer beautiful, with some rainy days; autumn, bright and fine; winter, frosty and rainy by turns; the spring very wet. Snow falls to the depth of several inches, rarely to the depth of a foot—melts quickly. When the atmosphere is clear, heavy dews fall at nights, and fogs are common during October and November; summer mists rare, partial, and transitory; no tornadoes, such as sweep over Illinois and other Northern States of the Union, and occasionally visit New England. Brilliant weather in winter, sometimes for a month at a time. I include Vancouver Island above as part of the “West Cascade region,” because the climate is similar. Of course, were the matter gone into exhaustively, the island climate would present insular peculiarities.

EAST CASCADE REGION.

Climate different from the climate west of Cascade Range. Heat and cold greater; almost continuously hot in summer, but not so as to destroy vegetation. Little rain; warm rains, perhaps, April and May—again, but not always, in August and September. Winter changeable; November frosty, December, January, and February cold and wintry, but generally clear and sunny; little ice; snow say a foot deep on an average of years—melts quickly, winds melt it, and often leave ground bare for weeks. March and April variable; plains then begin to show grass. Hill-sides, in some places, show green grass in March. Irrigation generally required in this region.

The above description applies to an immense territory in the southern portion of the “East Cascade region.” The description must be modified as regards certain districts. Approximation to the Rocky Range, or to the rugged Cariboo and other mountains, has its natural effect; trees abound, more rain falls, snow is deeper. On the upper parts of the Fraser River, the winter is capricious; very severe cold for a few days, then fluctuating near freezing point; another interval of intense cold, and then perhaps spring comes all at once. In the south-eastern corner of the province, a re-modification takes place. The effect of approximation to the Rocky Range is there mitigated by the influence of approximation to the border of the Great American Desert

which stretches south to Mexico. About the headwaters of the Columbia, the climate is delightful; extremes are rare; snow generally goes as it falls. The scenery is very grand, and it is therefore probable that, when made accessible, this region will be the resort of thousands of invalids. Again, where depressions in the Rocky Range occur, towards which we may suppose that the Pacific Ocean winds are drawn in their passage eastward, approximation to the Range does not injure the climate. For instance, near Jasper House, and for some distance in the Athabasca Valley (see map), snow never accumulates; there is constant grass; warm rains sometimes fall in January. The same may be said of other parts.

Public Debt.

The Province has no public debt, but the claims of a rapid industrial development will probably soon remove this peculiarity.

Taxation.

The settler in British Columbia at present pays no taxes except the road-tax, and a tax which is paid indirectly to the General Government of Canada, averaging about 15 per cent. on imports. The Government of the Province is supported by an annual fixed subsidy from the General Government of Canada. Moderate taxation may be imposed in future in the province by the Provincial Legislature, to enable improvements to be made for the advantage of settlers.

This is a contrast to the heavy Federal and State taxes, and burdensome indirect taxes paid by settlers in the United States.

The advantage which a settler in British Columbia has, in respect of taxation, over a settler in Washington territory, Oregon, California, or other States of the Union, is, that the British Columbian settler pays about 15 per cent. all round on what he consumes, and the United States settler pays about as follows:—

The farmer in the United States is taxed for trousers he wears 60 per cent.; flannel shirt, 65 per cent.; vest, 60 per cent.; on the cloth for an overcoat, 60 per cent.; for the buttons, 40; braid, 60; lining, 60; padding, 150; boots, 35; coal, 60; 150 per cent. on the stove-pipe; stove, 55; 40 per cent. on the saucepan. His dinner plate is taxed 45 per cent.; his knife and fork, 35 per cent. His hat is taxed 70 per cent.; cigar, 150 per cent.; horse-shoe nails are taxed 67 per cent.; plough, 45 per cent.; chains, 100 per cent.; and harness, 35 per cent. His pocket handkerchief, 35 per cent.; shawls for his wife and daughter, 200 per cent.; silk dress for Sunday and holiday, 60 per cent.; woollen dress, 100 per cent.; wife and daughter's hats, 40 per cent.; stockings for his family, 75 per cent.; female boots, 35 per cent.; ribbon bow for neck, 60 per cent.; umbrella, 60 per cent.; rice, 82; soap, 70 per cent.; candles, 40 per cent.; paint, 25 per cent.; starch, 50 per cent.; needles, 25 per cent.; thread, 73 per cent.; steel pen, 70 per cent.; pins, 35 per cent.; books, 25 per cent. His fowlingpiece is taxed 35 per cent.; window curtains, 80 per cent.; window shades, 35 per cent.; window glass, 55 per cent.; wall paper, 32 per cent.; wash basin, 40 per cent.; sheeting, 55 per cent.; blanket, 540 per cent.!! His bedstead is taxed 20 per cent.; if sick and needs quinine, it is taxed 45 per cent., besides the glass phial in which he buys it. His axe is

taxed 45 per cent. ; hammer, 50 per cent. ; watering-pot for garden, 35 per cent. ; pocket-knife, 50 per cent. ; scythe, 50 per cent. ; screws, 150 per cent. ; garden and farm implements, 45 per cent. ; dinner-can, 35 per cent. ; well-bucket, 60 per cent. ; hand-saw, 75 per cent. ; and his produce is carried to market on steel rails taxed at 3000 dollars a mile, and which he must pay for in exorbitant freight. The iron car in which his crop is conveyed is taxed 40 per cent., and the locomotive which draws it all, and which draws so much unnecessary profits from his crop, is taxed 45 per cent.

The United States settler, additionally, has to pay a State tax, which each State collects for State purposes. In New York State this amounts to 11½ dollars (46 shillings English) per head. In British Columbia, there are, as above said, no provincial taxes at present except a trifling tax for roads.

The British Columbian farmer gets higher prices for his farm produce than the average price obtained in the United States.

Average Wages in British Columbia.

Bookbinders	14s. a day
Blacksmiths	14s. to 16s. ,,
Bread and Biscuit Bakers	8 <i>l</i> . to 9 <i>l</i> . a month, with board
Butchers	10 <i>l</i> . to 12 <i>l</i> . ,, with meat
Bricklayers	12s. a day
Carpenters and Joiners	12s. to 16s. ,,
Cabinet-makers	16s. ,,
Coopers	16s. ,,
Carters with horse and cart	20s. ,,
Coachmen and grooms	8 <i>l</i> . a month, and board
Cooks	6 <i>l</i> . to ,, ,,
Dairy-women	,, ,,
Dressmakers and Milliners	,, ,,
Farm Labourers	,, ,, (see p. 45.)
Gardeners	,, ,,
Household Servants	4 <i>l</i> . to 5 <i>l</i> . ,, (see p. 23.)
Labourers (day)	10s. a day
Mechanics	14s. to 16s. ,,
Masons	14s. to 16s. ,,
Painters and Glaziers	14s. to 16s. ,,
Plasterers	14s. to 16s. ,,
Plumbers	12s. to 16s. ,,
Policemen	8 <i>l</i> . to 10 <i>l</i> . a month
Shoemakers	12s. to 14s. a day
Stonemasons	12s. to 16s. ,,
Saddlers	10s. to 12s. ,,
Slaters and Shinglers	12s. to 14s. ,,
Tanners	12s. to 16s. ,,
Tailors	12s. to 14s. ,,
Tinsmiths	16s. to 20s. ,,
Wheelwrights	16s. ,,

These are the highest rates of wages in Vancouver Island, and the New Westminster district. In the interior of the Mainland, wages are higher still,

and at the mines the wages of labourers reach 32s. and 40s. a day at times; but the mining season lasts only for a portion of the year.*

The wages in British Columbia are, therefore, attractive; but it must be clearly understood by the emigrant that the country is so young at present that the prospect of *continuous* day-by-day employment cannot be very confidently held out to a number of skilled artisans, or even to common labourers if numbered by thousands. The province has not at present the resources of a large settled population, whose varied wants multiply indefinitely the chances of employment. We want producers specially at this time—men of large and men of small capital—and we hope the employer and the labourer will come together.

The demand for labour is comparatively small, because there is not as yet sufficient capital to employ a very large number of labourers. When it is brought, the field of labour will be seen to be unbounded. The number of situations, however, is increasing every month, consequent upon the progress of the country, the building of the Graving Dock at Esquimalt and other public works, and the beginning of the Canadian Pacific Railway within the province. The construction of the latter will afford employment to suitable men for many years. But apart from suitable classes, it were best that no great "rush" of emigrants took place. The Agent-General will always be ready to give the best information which he possesses without any colouring. The country is sure to go a-head—*the whole northwest of America is moving*—but sound judgment dictates at present that British Columbia be peopled little by little. Any man with confidence in himself, however, may take his own course, and if the experience of other colonies may be a guide, such men, if ready for manual work at first, often "fall on their feet." A mixed emigration of employers and labourers is generally best for young countries.

The purchasing power of the above wages—the true test—is very great, as will be seen by comparing them with the prices of the common necessities of life, and still more with the price of land. The climate, over a great part of the province, also is such as to enable a workman to work much out of doors both in summer and winter.

A thrifty man may lay past every day the price of an acre of land.

*I invite every working man's attention to the following fact:—*The labourer who puts his own labour into a piece of his own land in British Columbia, in reality pays himself the above high wages for farm-labour, and he besides makes a home, and improves property which must rise steadily in value, and which up to 2500 dollars (500*l.* English) cannot be touched for debt (see Homestead Act).

Many farm-labourers in the province put their earnings into cattle, which are allowed to run with their employers' herds. These are protected from seizure from debt by the Cattle Exemption Act.

* Compare the above wages with the wages in the eastern portions of the Dominion, which are about as follows:

Agricultural labourers in Eastern Canada are paid from 25*l.* to 30*l.* a year, with board; and from 50*l.* to 60*l.* a year, without board.

Skilled farm hands are paid from 30*l.* to 40*l.* a year with board.

Common labourers receive from 5s. to 6s. a day, and find their own food.

Mechanics are paid from 6s. to 16s. a day.

The wages of female servants vary from 16s. to 2*l.* a month, with board; but higher rates are paid according to capacity, very common rates being from 24s. to 32s. a month.

Boys in situations receive from 16s. to 2*l.* a month, with board, according to age and capacity.

Nothing but ignorance and unthrift keeps men from saving money in order to settle in a land where labour can soon employ itself without asking leave of capital, and where a man can be his own employer and receive exactly all he earns, be the same less or more.

Savings-Banks.

Dominion Government Savings-banks at Victoria, Nanaimo, and New Westminster—quite safe of course—deposits not less than a dollar and multiples of a dollar (4s. English)—5 per cent. per annum interest added at 30th June—money returned on demand to extent of 100 dollars (20l. English)—seven days' notice for any sum over 100 dollars—office hours 10 to 3—Saturdays, 10 to 12.

Immigrants should put their money into the Savings, or other good Banks.

Money Table.

TABLE FOR CONVERTING BRITISH MONEY INTO BRITISH COLUMBIA MONEY,
AND BRITISH COLUMBIA MONEY INTO BRITISH MONEY.

British Money.			Equivalent in British Columbian Money.		British Columbian Money.		British Money.			
£	s.	d.	dollars	cts.	dollars	cts.	£	s.	d.	
		1		02		01			0½	
		2		04		02			1	
		3		06		03			1½	
		4		08		05			2½	
		5		10		10			5	
		6		12		15			7½	
		7		14		20			10	
		8		16		25		1	0½	
		10		20		50		2	1	
		11		22	1	00		4	1	
	1	0		24	2	00		8	3	
	1	3		30	3	00		12	5	
	1	6		36	4	00		16	5	
	1	9		43	5	00		1	0	6½
	2	0		49	6	00		1	4	8
	2	6		61	10	00		2	1	1
	5	0		1 22	20	00		4	2	2½
	10	0		2 43	25	00		5	2	9
	1	0	0	4 87	50	00		10	5	6¾
	5	0	0	24 33	100	00		20	10	11½
	10	0	0	48 67	500	00		102	14	9½
	25	0	0	121 67	1,000	00		205	9	7
	100	0	0	486 67	5,000	00		1,027	7	11¼
	1000	0	0	4,866 67	10,000	00		2,054	15	10½

For general purposes, it will be sufficient to remember that the British Columbian cent and the English half-penny are almost the same in value.

COST OF THE COMMON ARTICLES OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION AND USE IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND COMPARISON OF THE SAME WITH ENGLISH AND
EASTERN CANADA PRICES IN 1874.

ARTICLES OF CONSUMPTION.	British Columbia.		England.		Eastern Provinces of Canada.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bread, per lb.	0	2½ to 0 3	..	0 2	..	0 1½
Beer, per gallon	..	2 0	..	1 4	1 2 to	1 6
Beef, per lb.	0 4	0 6	0 11 to	1 0	0 5	0 6
Bacon	0 8	0 10	..	1 0	0 6	0 8
Butter (fresh)	1 8	1 10	..	1 10	0 8	0 9
Candles	..	..	0 7	0 9	..	..
Cheese, per lb.	..	1 6	..	0 11	0 5	1 0
Coals, per ton	..	45 0	..	31 3	..	..
Coffee, per lb. (ground)	1 4	1 6	..	1 4	1 0	1 3
Eggs, per doz.	1 6	3 0	..	1 4	0 9	1 0
Firewood	See page 22.					
Lard, per lb.	0 7	0 9	..	1 0	..	..
Mutton	0 5	0 7	..	0 11	0 5	0 6
Pork	0 7	0 9	..	0 10½	..	..
Potatoes	..	0 1½	..	0 1½	..	..
Rice	..	0 4	..	0 3½	..	0 2½
Sugar	0 4½	0 6½	..	0 4½	0 4½	0 6½
Tea	2 6	3 0	..	2 7	1 8	3 0

Boots, 1*l*. a pair; trousers, 14*s*. to 20*s*. a pair; coats, 30*s*. to 40*s*.; cotton shirts, 4*s*.; flannel shirts, 8*s*.; socks, 1*s*. 6*d*. a pair; cotton stuff, 1*s*. 6*d*. a yard; dress stuff, 2*s*. a yard.
Brandy, 20*s*. per gallon; whisky, 12*s*. per gallon; gin, 12*s*. per gallon.

The above are the prices on the seaboard of British Columbia. The prices of foreign produce are higher in the interior, owing to the high cost of land carriage, and this will probably continue so until the Canadian Pacific Railway is finished.

Weights and measures are the imperial; but by *agreement*, the American gallon, which is about one-fifth less, is sometimes used. The American ton is 2000 lbs., not 2240 lbs.

A consideration of the above prices of the principal articles of household consumption in British Columbia will show to the small farmer, to the mechanic, and to the farm-labourer, and, indeed, to many others, that these prices permit a family of moderate means to have a plentiful supply of excellent food, and household and personal comforts.

There cannot be found anywhere more charming places of residence than in several towns and districts of British Columbia. It is therefore extremely likely that, as soon as communications are improved from California, a matter which is under the care of the Dominion Government, visitors will reach the province from New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago, and other places. We expect also residents attracted by the climate, scenery, good schools, and abundance of choice meat, game, and vegetables at moderate prices.

The main difficulty at present for residents is the wages of household servants and the difficulty of getting them.

For the information of intending residents, I state here the estimated expenditure at this time on necessities of a small family, in a city in England with an income of 300*l*. a year; and I compare the same for British Columbia (seaboard districts).

ENGLAND.			BRITISH COLUMBIA.		
	Per Annum.			Per Annum.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Rent, rates and taxes	49	10 0		45	0 0
Servants' wages (15 <i>l.</i> and 9 <i>l.</i>) ..	24	0 0	 (one servant)	50	0 0
<i>Butcher</i> : 23 lbs. at 10 <i>d.</i> = 19 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> per week	49	16 8	<i>Butcher</i> : at 6 <i>d.</i> per lb. = 11 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per week	29	18 0
<i>Baker</i> : 10½ quarters at 8½ <i>d.</i> ; ¼ peck flour at 1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> = 8 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per week	22	3 1	<i>Baker</i> : 10½ quarters at 10 <i>d.</i> ; ¼ peck flour at 2½ <i>d.</i> per lb. (14 lbs. in the peck) = 9 <i>s.</i> 5½ <i>d.</i> per week	24	12 11
<i>Grocer</i> :	s.	d.		s.	d.
1 lb. tea at 3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> ..	3	4		3	4
1 lb. sugar at 6 <i>d.</i> ..	0	6		0	10
5 lbs. brown sugar at 5½	2	3½		2	3½
2½ lbs. butter at 1 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i>	4	1½		4	1½
Spice	0	6		0	6
1 lb. cheese at 1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> ..	1	1		1	6
1½ lb. bacon at 1 <i>s.</i> ..	1	6		1	0
3 lbs. rice, &c., at 3½ <i>d.</i>	0	10½		1	0
Candles	1	6		1	8
Per week	15	8½ = 40 16 10	16	3	42 5 0
	186	6 7			191 15 11
Vegetables and fruit	8	8 0		8	8 0
1½ qr. milk at 5 <i>d.</i> = 7½ <i>d.</i> per day ..	11	7 6		11	7 6
Beer	9	18 10		14	18 3
8 tons coal at 32 <i>s.</i>	12	16 0	 (at 45 <i>s.</i> per ton)	18	0 0
	228	16 11		244	9 8

The principal difference is in *servants' wages*. The cost of *coals* and *milk* may be reduced in British Columbia, by having a place out of town with grass for a cow, and *wood-fuel* for the cost of cutting and hauling. Game and fish are much cheaper in British Columbia than in England.

The natural productions of British Columbia (berries, animals, birds, and fish) afford good help for food. Thirty thousand Indians at least have lived upon these natural productions for nobody knows how long, without, so far as we can judge, lessening their growth appreciably in the districts inhabited by Indians.

Eatable Wild Fruits.

There are hosts of these everywhere, and they attain a size and flavour such as cultivation only can impart in England. The cranberry is an article of trade.

The cranberries grow in swampy places—plentiful near New Westminster and Nanaimo. Picked in the proper season (towards the end of September) cranberries will keep well for more than a year, by being simply put into a water-tight cask filled with water.

A correspondent at Nanaimo writes recently, "I think this year one of the most prolific for wild fruit, every bush and tree is literally weighed down; tons upon tons of all kinds must rot in the bush—truly our land does flow with milk and honey."

Beasts of the Chase.

Various, and in parts very numerous—not dangerous, except the grizzly bear.

The principal ones for food are the black-tailed deer—capital venison, sold by the joint 6 to 10 cents. (3*d.* to 5*d.* English) per lb.—very numerous everywhere, but not north of Fort George—come upon low lands, or near the coast

in winter. Also the Large North-Western Stag, called "Elk"—very numerous in interior of Vancouver and on the coast of the mainland, up to about 52°, for about 200 miles inland—very good food—as big as a small horse.

The Rein Deer—(Cariboo)—mountainous regions, north of 51° on the coast or 49° inland—plenty in Chilcotin—is also fine food.

Hares abound periodically on mainland east of Cascade Range—found on the Bonaparte.

Birds.

Grouse, of various kinds, are found almost everywhere in the island and mainland—in the thick fern near a tiny stream—perched on crab-apple or young fir-trees, or drumming on a pine top. Ordinary price of a grouse is 12½ cents (6*d.* English). Packs of prairie chickens in all the open valleys of the East Cascade region. Quails have been introduced, and are becoming numerous. Ptarmigan, on the high mountains—a stray cock of the plains (sage hen) occasionally about Osoyoos. Numerous wild geese—price 25 to 50 cents (1*s.* to 2*s.* English) each. Wild ducks, 25 to 37½ cents (1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* English) a brace. Snipe and pigeons plentiful. The mouth of Fraser River a great resort of wild fowl. Capital sport.

Plumage birds very beautiful—song birds not remarkable.

Several harmless varieties of snakes. A few rattlesnakes in southern portion of East Cascade region. A rattlesnake is not bad food, but there is no occasion to eat it.

Fish.

Sea fish, and lake and river fish, most abundant—one of the chief resources of the province for consumption and exportation.

Salmon, very numerous at various periods, from early spring to end of summer. All the larger streams along the coast abound with salmon; they also go 700 miles up the Fraser. At the regular shops, salmon and other fine fish are sold at 6 to 8 cents (3*d.* to 4*d.* English) per lb.; but the Indians frequently sell salmon at 12½ to 25 cents (6*d.* to 1*s.* English) for a good-sized fish. Salted salmon are sold at about 7 dollars (28*s.* English) for barrel of 200 lbs.

Sturgeon, halibut, cod, herrings, oysters, and crabs, are plentiful in the sea-board districts, and are sold at prices that would be considered absurdly cheap in England. Good fish abound in the numerous lakes and rivers of the interior.

Housing.

Houses—commonly wooden, some brick and stone. Saw-mills in principal places—Nanaimo, New Westminster, Hope, Yale, and Lytton district; Lillooet and Clinton district; Kootenay and Columbia district. Ordinary prices of sawn wood (lumber), outside mining districts, delivered at the mill:—

Dressed flooring	per mille feet	20	dollars (	4 <i>l.</i> English).
„ cedar	„	35	„	(7 <i>l.</i> „).
„ white pine	„	40	„	(8 <i>l.</i> „).
„ maple	„	50	„	(10 <i>l.</i> „).
Rough cedar	„	25	„	(5 <i>l.</i> „).
„ white pine	„	30	„	(6 <i>l.</i> „).
„ maple	„	40	„	(8 <i>l.</i> „).
„ lumber	„	12·50	„	(2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> „).

(The measure is a foot—12 inches square and 1 inch thick.)

Cost of wooden house depends, of course, on size and finishing. Three-roomed cottage, 500 dollars (100*l.* English). Rents of cottages range from 5 dollars (1*l.* English) to 25 dollars (5*l.* English) per month. Opportunities are frequently available to workmen for purchasing a building lot and erecting a cottage, to be paid for by easy instalments. In the country, rents are much lower than in towns, and, besides, there is often the advantage of a garden, and keep of a cow, pigs, and poultry. For temporary accommodation, a man often puts up the one-roomed house, called a "shanty." Country settler, not near saw-mill, puts up a log house. Neighbours will help. Cost about 30 dollars (6*l.* English). Build for sunshine—avoid low ground. Have flowers, and also books for the children's sake. Successful settlers often speak of the happy days in the old log-house.

Materials for brick and stone houses plentiful—cost not excessive. Bricks made in many places—Victoria and New Westminster, &c.—cost, 10 dollars 2*l.* English) per thousand at the kiln. Fire-clay not found.

Fuel.

Coal is used to some extent in Victoria, and costs 10 to 11 dollars (40*s.* to 44*s.* English) per ton. Wood is the common fuel, and farmers generally have enough on their land. The price in the seaboard towns is, say 3½ to 4 dollars (14*s.* to 16*s.* English) per "cord" of firewood delivered. A cord is 8 feet long, 4 feet high, and 4 feet broad. Wood is dearer at the gold mines. It must be cut after delivery into suitable lengths for household use. This will cost about 1½ dollar (6*s.* English) per cord, but many householders themselves cut it.*

Board and Lodging.

Ordinary present advertised rates in good second-class hotels are as follows :—

Victoria—

Board and lodging, per week, 5½ to 6½ dollars (22*s.* to 26*s.* English).

" " per day, 1 dollar (4*s.* English).

Single meals, 37½ cents (1*s.* 6*d.* English).

Beds, 50 cents (2*s.* English).

(Cash in advance.)

New Westminster—

Board and lodging, per week, 7 dollars (28*s.* English).

Board, 5 dollars (20*s.* English).

Single meals, 50 cents (2*s.* English).

Beds, 50 cents (2*s.* English).

Clinton—

Board and lodging, per week, 8 dollars (32*s.* English).

Single meals, 75 cents (3*s.* English).

Beds, 50 cents (2*s.* English).

* Fuel in Eastern Canada is rather an expensive item; being nearly equal to the rent. Wood costs there in the country from 5*s.* to 20*s.* per cord, and in cities from 20*s.* to 30*s.*, besides the cost of sawing and chopping, which is from 4*s.* to 6*s.* additional. This latter item, however, can be saved, if the workman will saw and chop the wood himself, which is almost universally the case. Coal is burnt only in the cities and largest towns of Eastern Canada. The price is from 29*s.* to 33*s.* a ton for the ordinary soft coal, which is burnt in the open grates, and from 31*s.* to 39*s.* for the hard anthracite coal, which is burnt in the stoves. A cord of wood contains 128 cubic feet, the load containing a cord generally being 8 feet long, 4 feet high, and 4 feet broad. A cord of wood is usually considered equal in heating and lasting power to half a ton of coal, and lasts about a month in winter and about two months in summer.

At the Cariboo mines higher—I believe 12 dollars and upwards (48s. English) a week for board and lodging.

Household Servants.

Scarce; wages high, 10 dollars to 12 dollars (40s. to 48s. English) a month for nurse-girls; 20 to 25 dollars, and even 30 dollars (4*l.* to 5*l.* to 6*l.* English) a month with board for general house-servants, having some knowledge of cooking; a considerable number of well-principled, competent women servants can be employed in respectable families—those accustomed to country work are most wanted—many men of good character and means are pining for wives in the country districts.

China women do not take servants' places. China men are employed as cooks at 20 to 25 dollars (4*l.* to 5*l.* English) a month with board. They cut fire-wood, light fires, clean boots, &c., but a good deal of the household work, nevertheless, falls on members of the family. China men are quiet, but many heads of families object to them. Indian cooks (men) are employed at 20 to 25 dollars (4*l.* to 5*l.* English) with board, and make fair servants when employers understand their character.

A good woman servant might soon make money. For men there is an open field with no favour. For women an open field full of favours. Unfortunately it has been found that some of those women who have reached the province have been fickle. Many of them have been disinclined to go to country work, and some have "tip-tilted" their noses at everything. Surely, however, the right class can be found, when wages are so good.

The best plan at present for persons of moderate means is to do without servants; getting help for wood cutting, washing, and scrubbing floors. The idea may be one to shrink from, but this plan is not burdensome in actual every-day life. A settler will find many doing this in the province who are socially his equals.

Who should go.

If a man is prosperous, healthy, and contented where he is, there let him stay among his relations and early friends. But if he cannot make the wealth-producing power of his labour available, if he is restless and uneasy about his own future and that of his children, and is prepared to emigrate, let him consider the advantages which British Columbia affords. He will find at first that the travel and change of life will raise his spirits; then will come a period of depression, under the rough task of beginning in a new country, to be followed by the feeling of security of home and subsistence, which is the most solid blessing to a man. Whatever may have been his former station, he will find that in the province, he may work in his own fields with his own hands, and neither feel it to be a degradation in his own eyes, nor in the eyes of those around him. His mind bowed down lately, perhaps, by care and anxiety, will recover its natural independence. His family, instead of being a burden, will be a solace and help to him. If he sets to work resolutely, and is sober and careful of his money, he will never regret the change of life which he has made. This is an undoubted truth, as I know from the mouths of hundreds of settlers, who have overcome early difficulties, and settled permanently in the country; nevertheless it is not now an easy matter to answer letters which I frequently receive, asking me

to state the actual advantages from different occupations and investments in the province. No man can answer such questions satisfactorily, without second sight, and the power to gauge moral dispositions. I might draw up statements on paper which might prove fallacious in practice—so much depends on the individual himself in every colonial undertaking. It will, therefore, be more prudent on my part to give general advice, the application of which to special cases must be the business of each individual himself.

We cannot at present encourage the emigration of more than a few *professional men*, such as lawyers, doctors, surveyors, and civil engineers, unless they have money beyond the expected earnings of their profession, and are prepared to take their chances after arrival. Clerks, shopmen, or those having no particular trade or calling, and men not accustomed to rough work with their hands, if without means of their own, would probably meet with disappointment, and, perhaps, hardship. Tutors, governesses, housekeepers, needlewomen, and women generally above the grade of domestic servants, should not go alone to the province at present, and they should not go at all, unless to join friends or relatives able to maintain them for some time after arrival.

Men who hang about the Government offices in search of "appointments" are nuisances in all colonies, and British Columbia has had her share of this class already. The only way to get an "appointment" in the province is by recommending oneself to one's fellow citizens, by sharing for years in the hard work and honest toil on which all young countries depend for their stability and progress.

A *smart, active, capable man*, with only a little money, but accustomed to work with his hands, is, however, sure to succeed in making a comfortable home in British Columbia. Wages, as already shown, are very high; land, food, and house materials are cheap. If such a settler has a strong heart himself, and is blessed with a common-sense wife used to country work, he may confidently look forward to becoming even rich. He need not long remain in the condition of a labourer. This certainty of rising in the social scale must stimulate the emigrant. His chances will be greatly improved if he is a *country mechanic*, who can carry on his trade and also farm for himself. Farming is often carried on in shares—the man of no capital giving his labour for a reasonable proportion of the profits.

To farmers' sons, or persons with moderate means, qualified for the life of a settler in a new country, who cannot see openings in older countries—who cannot *go up*, because the passages are blocked—who cannot *go down* because their habits and pride forbid—to such persons I say—"go to the province, set to work at something—no matter what; give up old country notions: by-and-by take up a farm; grow fields of grain; have an orchard; establish a dairy; rear pigs and poultry; get a band of cattle or a flock of sheep; subscribe to a library; avoid whisky; be industrious and patient, and success in your case also is certain. If you feel faint-hearted at any time under the new conditions of your life, bear in mind that the men who tackled the wilderness, and made homes out of the primitive forests of Eastern Canada, New England, and Pennsylvania, had little money in their pockets. They paid more for their land than you will have to pay for land in British Columbia; they worked in a far inferior climate; they sold their produce at much lower rates. You can do what they did, if you will, and with far less privation than confronted them."

Tenant farmers themselves, with limited capital, may accept the above advice. They should have at least sufficient capital to be independent for twelve months. It is often best for the father to go out and pave the way for the little folks.

Opportunities are still good in British Columbia, and just a little *enterprise* would give to many a family now poor and discouraged, comfort, hope, and a new life.

Farmers or other persons with larger means will also find either tillage farming, or cattle or sheep farming in British Columbia an agreeable and profitable occupation. The natural pastures of the country are practically inexhaustible. They will feed several millions of cattle, and at present there are only about 25,000 in the country. The East Cascade region of British Columbia was made by nature to supply the cities on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard with beef, butter, and wool. Why should an English farmer continue to pay rent, and remain under the control of a landlord as a leaseholder or yearly tenant, when, with one year's rental, he can purchase a partially prepared farm with buildings on it, in the thoroughly British province of British Columbia?

Farms cannot be made in a day, and it is evident that the demand for farm produce, which the steady growth of the country, also the Canadian Pacific Railway and other undertakings, will create in British Columbia, cannot be supplied from existing farms.

The province may be recommended generally to all properly qualified persons, with some means, and not disposed to croak, who may desire a perfectly natural, genuine, and above-board life, in a land which has the virgin attractions of great space and freedom, a superb climate, varied resources, and a bright future.

But for the scarcity of domestic servants, I could recommend British Columbia as a charming place of residence for *families with fixed incomes*. They would find, with much less difficulty than amidst the crowded population of the Mother Country, a suitable and pleasant home, with every facility for educating and starting their children in life. Persons living on the interest of their money can get from 8 to 12 per cent. on good security.

The invalid will find that a visit to the province will brace him up.

The tourist who can command sufficient means and leisure, might well exchange for a time the beaten tracks of European travel, for a tour of exploration and adventure, where the world assumes a new and to some minds not unattractive phase. To the observant traveller nothing could be more instructive than to witness the beginnings of a noble country—the Pacific Ocean stronghold of the Empire. In the magnificent scenery of British Columbia the lover of nature would see much that would remind him of Switzerland and the Rhine. The naturalist and botanist would find specimens not known in Europe. The geologist would witness a panorama to which the old world presents no parallel. The sportsman would find abundance of adventure, and game of all kinds. If he wants a new sporting sensation, let him try the reindeer on the Chilcotin foot-hills. For general tourists the novelty of roughing it in the bush, or traversing the fine open East Cascade country would possess singular charms. In the principal towns he can have as good a dinner as in Paris.

What I wish to enforce is, that British Columbia is not a country with

only "one string to its bow;" it is not agricultural and grazing only; it is also a mining country, whose surface has hardly been scratched by miners, though about 3000 miners are profitably employed in mining; it has fine forests, and teeming ocean, river, and lake fisheries, a coast line studded with harbours and coal-fields, besides a position in the world very favourable for commerce. The country is on the highway of civilized nations; it stands to America on the Pacific Ocean, as Great Britain stands to Europe on the Atlantic. The 'Alta California' newspaper, says, "That these new settlements (British Columbia) are yet to become competitors for the trade of the east, if not the commercial supremacy of the Pacific, it were useless to deny." (See Canadian Pacific Railway, p. 73.)

The urgent requirements of the province at the present time are *men and money—the large and the small capitalist*—to employ the labourer who also must come with his strong hands, to bring out for conveyance to market the treasures that are hidden in the soil or merely adorning its surface. The population of the province at present is far too small to utilise their valuable domain. We have mines to be worked, railways to be made, roads to be opened, water power to be used, fish to be caught, grain, mutton, beef, and wool to be produced, and for all of them we have requirements and markets.

How to reach British Columbia.

A first-class passenger can go from England to British Columbia in about 3 weeks, if the connections meet at the proper times. A third-class passenger will take 10 or 15 days longer. The spring season is the best time to arrive.

Passengers from England may go round Cape Horn by sailing-vessel, or by steamer, *viâ* Panama to San Francisco, and thence to British Columbia, but the ordinary route will probably be as follows:—

(1.) By steamer across the Atlantic to Canada (Quebec in summer; Portland, Maine, U.S., in winter).

(2.) Thence by rail across the Continent to San Francisco.

(3.) San Francisco to Victoria, British Columbia, by steamer.

The Atlantic passage takes 10 to 12 days; the railway trip across the Continent about the same time, and the steamer from San Francisco to Victoria 4 to 5 days.

It is best to take "*through*" tickets to Victoria. Third-class passengers should provide food for themselves for the railway trip across America, as provisions at the wayside stations are expensive, and the "*through*" ticket price does not include provisions except in the steamers.

The steamer goes from San Francisco to Victoria only twice a month at present, and it is therefore desirable that, as far as possible, third-class emigrants especially should leave England in parties, so as to reach San Francisco about the proper time, and save the tedium and expense of remaining over.

The Agent-General in England, No. 4, Lime Street Square, London, E.C. will arrange this, if communicated with.

While passing through Eastern Canada, and until Detroit is reached, emigrants from England for British Columbia will apply, in case of need, to the Immigration Officers of the Dominion of Canada.

Messrs. Allan, Brothers, and Co., James Street, Liverpool, give the following advice to emigrants:—

"Take passage by the Allan Line of Royal Mail Steamers which leave Liverpool every Tuesday and Thursday for Quebec in summer, and Portland in winter. In connection with this line through tickets are issued, either *via* Quebec or Portland to Victoria, the chief town of British Columbia. Trains leave Quebec and Portland twice a day, which connect at Detroit, Chicago, and Omaha, with through express trains over the Union and Central Pacific roads to San Francisco. From this point to Victoria, a distance of 753 English miles, the communication is by water, steamers leaving San Francisco twice a month.

For rates of passage between Liverpool and Quebec, or Portland, refer to advertisement on the back page of this book.

"From Quebec or Portland to San Francisco the rates are—1st class rail, 26*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; Emigrant class, 11*l.*; Children—Between 4 and 12 years, half price; under 4 years, free.

"From San Francisco to Victoria the rates are—1st class, 6*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; Emigrant class, 3*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Children—6 to 12, half fare; from 3 to 6, quarter fare; under 3 years, free.

"Baggage—100 lbs. free for each full passenger."

The "through" passage money to British Columbia is, at present (January 1875), 17*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per adult passenger.

The following are also agents of lines of sailing vessels to British Columbia :—

Messrs. Anderson, Anderson, and Co., 1, Billiter Court, London, E.C.

The Honourable Hudson's Bay Company, Lime Street, London, E.C.

Messrs. G. H. Fletcher and Co., 9 and 12, Exchange Buildings, A, Liverpool.

Money (Coin) in British Columbia.

The sovereign	current at 4 dollars 85 cents.
„ half-sovereign	2 „ 42½ „
„ half-crown	„ 62½ „
„ florin	„ 37½ „
„ shilling	„ 25 „
„ sixpence	„ 12½ „
„ threepenny-piece	„ 6 „

British money is not much used in British Columbia. Business is done, and accounts kept, in dollars and cents, and the coins principally used are United States coins, as follows :—

GOLD.	SILVER.
20 dollar piece	1 dollar piece
10 „	½ „
5 „	¼ „
2½ „	Dime (called a "bit").

The United States coins are more uniform in value in British Columbia than British coins, as the United States have a mint in California (which is close to the province).

MONEY (PAPER) IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The paper money of the bank of British Columbia, and of the bank of British North America, passes freely in the province in notes from 1 to 50 dollars. These notes are payable in gold.

United States paper money is not used in the province. If the emigrant should see any United States *paper* money he must remember that it varies in price, not being payable in gold.

COURSE OF EXCHANGE ON ENGLAND.

Bills at sight	5 dollars	15 cents	per £1.
„	30 days' sight	5 dollars	10 cents per £1.
„	60	„	5 „ „

ON NEW YORK.

4 to 5 per cent. premium.

ON SAN FRANCISCO.

1 per cent. premium.

HOW TO SEND MONEY TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The emigrant is not recommended to take British coin to British Columbia. He should pay that portion of his money not wanted on the passage to the Post Office in Great Britain, and get a money order for it payable in Victoria, or he may pay his money either to the Bank of British Columbia, East India Avenue, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C. (the bankers for the Government of British Columbia), or to the Bank of British North America, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., and get from the bank, in exchange for his money, an order payable on demand from its Branch Bank in Victoria, British Columbia, for the equivalent of his money in dollars and cents.

The equivalents at present given for money thus deposited are about as follows :—

£	Gold			
	Dollars.		Cents.	
5 paid in England would realise	24	· 25	in Victoria.	
10	”	”	48	· 50
20	”	”	97	· 00
50	”	”	242	· 50
100	”	”	485	· 00

The emigrant, on paying his money to the Bank, must sign his name on a separate piece of paper, and ask the Bank to send the signature to their Branch Bank in Victoria, so that the person who applies for the money in Victoria may be known to be the proper person. If this is neglected, the emigrant may not be able to get his money in Victoria readily.

The above banks have agents in England, Scotland, and Ireland. The Bank of British North America has its own branches in the Dominion of Canada, New York, and San Francisco. The Bank of Montreal is the agent of the Bank of British Columbia throughout Canada and New York, and the Bank of British Columbia has its own branches in San Francisco, and in Portland (Oregon). Both banks have correspondents in Mexico, Japan, China, Australia, and New Zealand.

The American Express and Banking House of Wells, Fargo, and Co., which has branches in many parts of the United States, has a branch in Victoria, British Columbia.

Words of Advice after Arrival.

Emigrants are recommended not to linger about the towns at which they may arrive, but to proceed with as little delay as possible, either to their friends, if they have any in the province, or to the localities where they are likely to meet with employment. To ascertain where their services are most in demand, they should consult the Government Immigration Agent at the port of arrival, who will assist them with information and advice that can be relied on. They should be cautious in trusting strangers, and particularly should avoid the bar-room idler, and the croaker in the street, whose note in every colony always is that "times are bad—no work for men—country not worth a cent." These idlers and croakers, together with office-seekers, are nuisances everywhere—in Australia, New Zealand, and also in young American states.

If seeking employment, immigrants should at once accept any fair offer of work, although the wages may be less than they anticipated. They should remember that until they get into the ways of the country they are of much less use to their employers than they will be afterwards.

If the emigrant wishes to farm, he should not invest all his capital in land, but reserve sufficient to stock and work it. Let him be careful of his cash capital, and not put it into investments hastily.

Small capitalists are recommended not to buy land before they have become acquainted with its character and the kind of labour required in a new country; and further, if possible, to purchase or rent a farm with some improvements on it, rather than to go upon untouched land. This last advice more particularly refers to emigrants from Europe, whose previous training necessarily has not so well adapted them to the settlement of wild lands as persons brought up in America. Partially-cleared farms, with buildings erected on them, may be bought in some districts of British Columbia on easy terms of payment, owing to the disposition pioneers have to sell old settlements, and take up more extensive new ones. The price of such farms depends, as already said, much on their situation, ranging probably from 14 to 35 dollars (2*l.* 16*s.* to 7*l.* English) per acre, within from 5 to 50 miles of Victoria.

It is better for a small capitalist, possessing from 100*l.* to 1000*l.*, to *place his money, on first arrival, in the savings or other banks allowing interest; to take lodgings, and to work for wages for a year or more, in order to gain a knowledge of colonial life and modes of management;* or he may rent a piece of land in or near the locality in which he expects to settle, raise a crop, and look round quietly for a suitable place for a home.

By pursuing the plan suggested the emigrant, at the end of a few years, will probably be far in advance of him who, on his arrival "went at it with a rush," as beginners are apt to do.

Special Advice to Young British Columbian Farmers.

Get a wife.

Keep no spirits in the house.

Laugh at croakers.

Hold on to your cash capital.

Don't buy poor stock—a runt is dear at any price.
 Feed your land, and it will feed you.
 Do not buy one extra plough or harrow.
 Buy as little as possible secondhand.
 Don't improve—except slowly.
 Don't employ a lot of hands at first, building, fencing, draining, &c.
 Only good farming pays.
 Don't hunger for a “big” farm.
 Give up old-country notions.
 Don't think you are very much wiser than your neighbours.
 Make your house pretty with shrubs and flowers.
 Go to church.
 Work a little—rest a little, but be always about your place.

Aliens.

Aliens may hold and transmit land as fully as British subjects—may be naturalised after three years' residence—alien women are naturalised by marriage. We invite emigrants from all nations.

Public Schools

are in the hands of the people—free to all, without distinction of race or creed strictly non-sectarian—highest morality inculcated—no religious dogmas or creeds taught—uniform text-books—Public School Fund voted every year by the Provincial Chamber—General Board of Education for the whole Province—a Superintendent of Education, who visits and inspects—School Districts wherever population is sufficient—the people choose every year from among themselves 3 School Trustees to manage schools—Trustees get money from “Public School Fund,” on application endorsed by Superintendent of Education—Trustees may make by laws (approved by Superintendent) requiring children to attend school—Teachers (3 grades) paid, from 40 to 100 dollars (8% to 20% English) a month—appointed or removed by Trustees—must have certificates of qualification from the Board—Board fixes salaries.

The settler will well know how to estimate the capabilities of this school system. The St. John's (New Brunswick) ‘Telegraph’ newspaper says—“Let us take care that the young sister province on the Pacific does not lead “New Brunswick in education.”

There are very good church schools and private schools, for both sexes, in several of the larger towns. An education befitting the children of gentlemen can be obtained for both boys and girls at Victoria and New Westminster on reasonable terms.

The following are the terms of a Collegiate School established on the plan of the Grammar Schools in England, viz. :—

4 dollars (16s. English) per month.

French, 1 dollar (4s. English) per month.

Boarders, from 30 to 40 dollars (6% to 8% English) per month, according to age.

In other good schools the prices are somewhat less.

Public Boarding Schools.

To meet the wants of some districts of the province where the population is at present too scattered to allow of sufficient schools being provided for the education of the children of settlers, the Government have established a system of Public Boarding Schools under the management and control of Trustees.

Churches.

No State Church—no tithes, but religious wants not neglected—Sunday well kept—Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Congregational, and Hebrew communities have churches and clergymen in the larger towns—churches built also in some small towns and country districts—other places are visited by ministers.

As soon as an infant settlement is formed, the inevitable minister appears, generally before even the newspaper correspondent. One of the settlers in a settlement of about 20 families on the "North arm," near the mouth of Fraser River, writes—"We have two churches already, and a third is "talked of."

Religious societies may take a conveyance of land for certain specified purposes by appointing trustees and registering the title deeds.

Newspapers.

Numerous and well conducted—receive constantly news by telegraph—the wants and opinions of settlers in remote districts are made known through the press to their fellow settlers and to the Government.

Post-Office.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

	Letters per half oz.	Papers each.	Book Post, Lowest Rate.
England	6 cents	2 cents	3 cents per 4 oz.
Throughout the Province and Dominion	3 "	1 "	1 cent per 1 oz.
United States	6 "	2 "	1 " , ,
Germany	23 "	6 "	6 cents per 2 oz.
France	34 "	5 "	5 " , ,
Australia	16 "	4 "	2 cents per 1 oz.
New Zealand	16 "	4 "	2 " , ,
China	16 "	4 "	2 " , ,

Money Orders with Canada and England.

LOCAL POST-OFFICES.

Ashcroft.
Barkerville.
Burrard Inlet.
Cache Creek.
Cassiar.
Chemanis.
Clinton.

Comox.
Cowichan.
Chilliwack
Dunkeld.
Duck and Pringle's.
Esquimalt.
Hope.

LOCAL POST-OFFICES—*continued.*

Kamloops.	Omineca.
Kootenay.	150 Mile House.
Lake La Hache.	Pavillon.
Langley.	Quesnel.
Lillooet.	Skena.
Lytton.	Soda Creek.
Maple Bay.	Sooke.
Nanaimo.	Spence's Bridge.
New Westminster.	Sumass.
Nicola Lake.	Van Winkle.
Okanagan.	Victoria.
Okanagan Mission.	Yale.

Administration of Justice.

This has always been wholesome. There is very little "rowdiness" in British Columbia. Life, limb, and property are secured by just laws *well carried out*. The courts do not ask whether accused parties are Indians or white men. The San Francisco (California) 'Bulletin' said, lately—"It is well that our citizens should note that our neighbours in British Columbia do not deal so leniently with those who take life as we on this side of the "border line."

Local Self-Government.

The people of a locality with over 30 male residents may be formed into a "municipality," and elect from among themselves Councillors and a Warden to manage all local affairs.

Provincial Self-Government.

The old system of government has been quite done away with. There is now one Legislative Chamber only—elected for four years by the voters—three, or not more than six of its members form the "responsible advisers" or "ministry" of the Lieutenant-Governor—hold office while they have the confidence of a majority of the chamber—municipal councils are steppingstones to Legislative Assembly—no social obstacles whatsoever in any man's way—nobody asks where a settler comes from, nor whose son he is. Among measures passed lately were the Qualification of Voters Bill, which invites every *bonâ fide* resident British subject to take an active part in the great work of self-government; the School Bill, which places a free education within reach of every child in the land; the Municipal Bill, which enables every settlement to manage its own local affairs, and thus educate the people in the art of self-government; the Inheritance Bill, which divides equally amongst the children or nearest of kin the property of persons dying intestate; the Road Tolls Repeal Bill, which throws open, free as the high seas to all comers, the main trunk road of the Province.

The political constitution of the province, as part of the great Dominion of Canada, is impressed with the stability of the British system of Government, combined with the freedom, elasticity, and progressive energy of Republican institutions.

The people of the Province may amend or alter their political constitution in any way not inconsistent with the general constitution of the Dominion of Canada.

Exports.

The gold shipped from British Columbia by banks, and carried out of the country by miners, has not been less in value than $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions sterling during the 10 years from 1862. Other exports than gold, namely, lumber (sawn wood), coal, furs, fish, fish-oil, wool, cranberries, are yearly increasing in quantity and value.

The exports of coal from the Nanaimo coal mine, during the above ten years, has been 330,395 tons.

Several new coal mines are about to be opened and worked. (See Coal Mining, page 78.)

The following represents the exports of the Province of British Columbia for the year ending 30th June, 1874:—

	Dols.
Products of the mine—gold dust and bars	1,072,422
Coal, etc.	278,213
The fisheries	114,118
The forest (lumber, etc.)	260,116
Animals and produce—wool, furs, etc.	330,625
Agricultural products	5,296
Manufactures	443
Total for the year	2,061,233

The gold export, exclusive of that shipped in private hands, amounts for the three months ending September 30th, to	407,734
For the corresponding three months of 1873	348,161
Balance in favour of three months of 1874	59,573
The gold export for the month of September of the present year amounts to	190,000

This is the largest amount shipped in one month for several years past, which is a gratifying fact. It must be remembered too that this is exclusive of bullion in private hands.

Manufactories.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

- 3 Saw mills—can cut 183,000 feet of lumber per day.
- 1 Grist mill—can grind 30 barrels per day.
- 1 Distillery—distils 300 to 400 gallons per month.
- Brick works.

HOPE, YALE, AND LYTTON.

- 2 Saw mills—can cut 7000 feet of lumber per day.
- 5 Flour mills—2 can grind 23 barrels, the others 10 barrels per day each.

LILLOOET AND CLINTON.

1 Saw and Flour mill (combined)—can grind 60 barrels of flour per day, and cut 12,000 feet of lumber.

1 Flour mill on Dog Creek—can grind 2000 pounds of wheat per day.

1 Saw mill at Lillooet—can cut 5000 feet of lumber per day.

1 Saw mill at Clinton—can cut 2000 feet of lumber per day.

1 Flour mill at Lillooet—can grind 120 sacks in twelve hours.

KOOTENAY AND COLUMBIA.

1 Saw mill, water-power.

1 Bed Rock Flume.

CARIBOO.

1 Steam Saw mill, on William's Creek, 20-horse power—can cut 20,000 feet of lumber per day.

1 Steam Saw mill, on Ditton Lightning Creek—can cut 20,000 feet of lumber per day.

1 Quartz Mill, on William's Creek, 3-horse power, 4 stamps of 450 lbs. each—can crush 4 tons a day.

1 Flour mill, 20-horse power—can grind 50 barrels of flour per day.

1 Flour mill, Soda Creek, water-power—can grind 40 barrels of flour per day.

1 Saw mill, Quesnel, water power—can cut 2500 feet of lumber per day.

NANAIMO.

1 Saw mill.

COWICHAN.

1 Saw mill.

VICTORIA.

1 Iron Foundry.

2 Sash Factories.

Gas Works.

4 Breweries.

2 Distilleries.

1 Soap Factory.

2 Tanneries.

Boot and Shoe Factory.

Brick Works.

1 Ship Yard.

2 Lumber Yards.

2 Waggon-makers.

Trade.

The estimated value of exports and imports for 1870 was as follows:—Exports, including gold, 1,848,803 dollars; imports, 1,605,809; balance of trade in our favour, 242,994 dollars. The exports, besides gold, were supplied by twenty-one articles of home produce. Here are the germs of productive manufactures, lucrative trades and of an active commerce.

The Toronto 'Monetary Times' says that the imports and exports of "British Columbia have increased steadily since the confederation of the Province with the Dominion, the former aggregating for the three years 1872, 1873, and 1874 the sum of 5,891,129 dollars, and the latter, for the same period, 6,825,148 dollars. In the imports the necessities of life—flour, wheat and meat—form quite a large part, though tobacco, wines, and other luxuries

“are freely imported. Gold is the chief export, and coal comes next. The present state of trade will be entirely changed as the country grows older, for many parts of it are eminently suited for agriculture and grazing. Regular exchanges now take place between British Columbia and Honolulu, China, Chili, Peru, and other countries with which we, in the eastern part of Canada seldom or never come into contact. This being the case when the population and wants of Columbia are so small, it is not too much to believe that a connection by rail with old Canada would render necessary lines of steamships from China and Japan, which would compete with those now plying from San Francisco.”

Imports.

The total value of imports into British Columbia during the year ending 30th June, 1873, was 2,191,011 dollars—507,364 dollars being free goods. The total amount of duty collected was 302,147 dollars 65 cents. The imports during the year ending 30th June, 1874, amounted to 2,085,560 dollars—266,631 dollars being free goods.

Tonnage for 1871.

The vessels—sea going—that entered the ports of British Columbia for the year 1871, numbered 292, with a tonnage of 131,696. Cleared, 285, with a tonnage of 129,864.

Hospitals.

There are three Public Hospitals in the Province, supported by private contributions with Government aid. One at Victoria, another at New Westminster, the third in Cariboo, and a Lunatic Asylum at Victoria.

In addition to these, there is the Naval Hospital at Esquimalt for the accommodation of H.M.'s fleet; and, in Victoria, a private hospital supported by the French Benevolent Society.

Telegraph Lines.

British Columbia is connected with England by telegraphic wires. Telegraph lines extend from Swinomish, in Washington Territory (United States), to Barkerville, at the extremity of the Cariboo Road. There is, besides, a branch from Matsqui to Burrard Inlet *via* New Westminster, in addition to a telegraphic right of way over the line belonging to the *Western Union Telegraph Company*, from Swinomish to Victoria, which comprises two submarine cables. This line of telegraph is 569 miles long, in addition to the submarine portion, which is a mile and a quarter in length; it originally cost 170,000 dollars. Besides this line, there is that from the mouth of the Quesnel to the Babine, but the line has not been kept up, and is abandoned.

The Government of the Dominion are making a telegraph line across the continent. Work on it has already been begun within the Province.

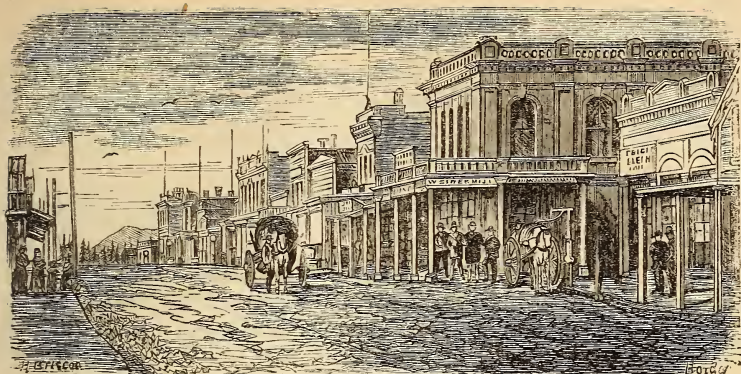
Public Works.

The Canadian Pacific Railway (see page 73) to be begun this year; also a first-class Graving Dock at Esquimalt; additional light-houses; improvement of the River Fraser; Marine Hospital; Penitentiary; Post-office and Custom

Houses. Among existing public buildings and property are fixed light-houses on Race Rock and Fisgard, also at Cape Beale, a floating light at the mouth of the Fraser River, postal-service steamer, harbour dredge, Mint, Court-houses and jails, Lunatic Asylum, Governors' residences, Legislative and Departmental buildings, &c.

Harbours.

On Vancouver Island: Victoria, Esquimalt, Nanaimo, Barclay Sound, On the mainland: Burrard Inlet, Howe Sound, Bute Inlet, Millbank Sound, River Skena, River Nasse. These harbours, being open all the year round, and, generally speaking, easy of access, sheltered and capacious, give a distinctive value to the province, which the course of events on the North American continent will every year make more apparent.



Part of Government-street, Victoria. From a photograph.

Vancouver Island.

Area, 12,000 square miles; length, 300 miles; average breadth, 30 to 50 miles. Surface very mountainous and woody—flattens at both ends, and for part of its eastern side—most mountainous region in the interior—highest mountains (6000 feet) towards north of island—no “back-bone range,” such as some describers say exists—width of arable valleys, from one to six miles—whole country full of lakes, streams, and waterfalls—(the water-power is generally some distance inland from the coast)—shores boldly picturesque—promontories, cliffs, harbours, coves, and beaches.

West coast, cut up by arms and inlets, margined by rugged mountains, bearing fir, hemlock, and cedar—here and there shore is skirted by lower wooded hills, among which, and along streams, small patches of open or wooded flat land are found.

No inlets on *north and east* coasts, but in other respects the above description applies also to them—near Johnstone’s Straits, shore-line is even more continuously mountainous and abrupt than on west coast. Farther down *east* coast, and also in *south-eastern* part of island, the coast is lower, and the proportion of flat or gently undulating land, good for farming, increases, some of which is open or thinly timbered.

Prevailing timber—fir, near the coast—hemlock, inland—great cedars on the mountains—shrubs, berries, and flowers everywhere—grasses, sweet grass, reed meadow, bent spear—white clover, wild timothy, wild oats, broad-leaved rush, cowslip, &c.

Fern in the open lands, troublesome to farmers.

Resident Population.

Victoria and neighbourhood	..	..	..	..	5360
Cowichan district	..	..	..	..	350
Nanaimo and neighbourhood	..	..	..	..	950
Comox	..	..	..	..	250
Indians, say	..	..	..	..	3000

9910

There are three Farmers’ Societies in the island.

Her Majesty’s Fleet at Esquimalt adds an average of about 500 to the

population of the Victoria district, which is also considerably increased, temporarily, by visitors at all seasons of the year, and by crews of vessels. A fine Naval Graving Dock is being built at Esquimalt.

Soils.

These, being everything to the farming immigrant, will first be mentioned.

Derivation of Vancouver Island Soils.

Four chief sources—disintegration of underlying rocks—deposit of the sands, gravels, and clays of the great Northern Drift—alluvial deposits—decay of vegetable matter on the surface.

Distribution of Soils.

The nature of the underlying rocks has produced in various parts of the *south* of the island (which the immigrant first sees) *gravelly* soil, with a thin coating of vegetable mould.

Further north, along the *eastern* shore, where the rocks alter in character, rich loams are found, due to the decomposition of the limestone rocks in their neighbourhood. Good specimens in Cowichan valley and at Comox. These soils are always ready for cultivation.

The Northern Drift sands, gravels, and clays, are spread out over the whole undulating surface of the *east coast*. The sandy gravels form the soil generally, from which the forests spring, while the clay will be found chiefly in the open undulating grounds as a retentive subsoil with a thick topsoil of vegetable mould. This latter clay-vegetable soil is a most valuable soil—colour, rich brownish-black. It fills up hollows and swampy bottoms, and forms the sides of gentle slopes. In some localities the clay forms the only soil.

The above clay-vegetable soil is mixed with alluvium in some localities, namely, deltas of rivers, near inlets and in valleys.

The alluvial deposits are not extensive, the streams being short water-courses. The brown earth, or "Humus," resulting from the decay of vegetable matter, is abundant, and mixes with the other soils in various proportions in different localities.

Value of these Soils.

The gravelly soil, found as above stated in various parts of the south of the island, is poor, from its inability to retain moisture. The rains are drained off into lagoons, and the sun dries up the surface. This soil produces large timber and coarse grass.

Wheat could no doubt be cultivated upon nearly all the other soils with proper culture.

The clay-vegetable soil, above mentioned, is very valuable, particularly where it has been mixed with alluvium. With subsoil drainage this soil would carry the heaviest possible crops of wheat and other cereals.

The clay, when found by itself, would, like all heavy land, require special treatment.

The sandy and gravelly loams are eligible for barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, beans, peas, root and leaf crops, &c., &c.

The deep loamy soils everywhere are especially eligible for fruit culture. The alluvial deposits in the valleys are in many places very valuable. Mixed with the decayed, and the decaying, vegetable matter brought down by the numerous streams from watersheds, they form a rich black soil, many feet thick.

The brown earth, or "Humus," forms soils of great value, according to the materials with which it mixes. Though light and porous, many soils, so formed in the valleys and plains of the eastern coast, are well constituted for absorbing and retaining moisture as well as heat. The brown earth appears to be rich, when resting, with a depth of 2 to 3 feet, on a gravelly, or even sandy, subsoil, if we may judge from the successive crops of potatoes which the Indians have raised from such soil.

Hilly, partly wooded, grazing tracts are interspersed among the prairies and benches. Often, near arable farms, rocky hills rise 1000, 2000, and even 3000 feet—surface craggy—patches of thin soil with grass. Sheep and cattle like these hills in summer.

Water.

Running streams numerous; springs excellent. In places, however, where the clay forms the top-soil, the water runs off, and unless you bore through the clay the water must be looked for at some little distance, where the clay is overlaid by a porous material. Many springs resemble the Bath waters, but are not unpleasant to the taste. In one place there are "brine" springs.

Estimated Quantity of Farming Land.

Extract, condensed from 'British Colonist,' Victoria, August 7th, 1872.

"Near Victoria.—Say 100,000 acres, all occupied or owned. Some farms can be bought or let; terms higher than in places farther from the capital.

"Saanich peninsula.—37 square miles; 64,000 acres. 200 settlers, with farms from 50 to 1500 acres each.

"Sooke.—Out of five square miles, 3750 acres fairly good, open land; remainder tolerably level wood-land.

"Cowichan.—Portions surveyed (including Shawnigan, Quamichan, So-menos, Comiaken) 100,000 acres, of which half considered superior.

"Salt Spring Island—area, 90 square miles; 5750 acres, good. 80 settlers.

"Nanaimo district (Mountain, Cranberry, and Cedar districts). 45,000 acres; a fair proportion superior, some light and sandy.

"Comox.—50,000 acres; none better in the world.

"The above gives sufficient area for 30,000 country people, at least, and it is known that towards Alberni and in other directions, for instance, in the long narrow valley of Salmon River, there is land available for settlement."

Much of the above land is covered with fine large timber. Many of the best farm-locations near existing roads—at least the best to the eye—may be expected to be already taken up or occupied; but there certainly is room yet for numerous settlers. This will be more clearly seen as communications are improved. It is said that Victoria buys a quantity of beef every year from the opposite American territory, and that butter could lately be imported from Montreal at a profit. The facilities for dairy farming are excellent in British Columbia. The truth is that many farms are occupied by non-practical

farmers, who are merely waiting to sell their farms. The climate, scenery, and abundance of game and fish have had the effect of making this class of land-holder rather numerous. They will give place in time to the right class—as pictured by Franklin:—

“Farmer at the plough,
Wife milking cow,
Daughters spinning yarn,
Boys thrashing in the barn,
All happy as a charm.”

Land here must continue to rise in value, and the practical farmer is sure of a good yield from his farm, and a market for what he produces. The settlers are hospitable, and will give anyone a warm welcome, particularly if he is disposed to help himself.

Interior of the Island.

I do not think there is very much farming land in the interior of the island anywhere in mass, though detached pieces near lakes and in valleys would, no doubt, make a considerable area, if all were put together. The mountains in the interior cross and re-cross, interlaced by valleys, generally wooded. Some of these valleys are of good size, and the soil is fertile. Many of the larger lakes have steep sides; the streams are rapid, and often have rocky banks. Nearly all the smaller lakes and rivers, however, have a good deal of low land near them, swampy or liable to overflow, but capable of being brought into cultivation. In hollows among the hills also are marshy tracts, easily drained, which, if there is a subsoil, will make fine farms.

Mode of clearing Land.

The immigrant is often attracted by a fern-covered prairie, or by “brush” land, covered only with alders, willows, &c.

The fern is troublesome, and is only entirely removed by successive cropping. It is cut year after year in early summer, and the land then ploughed and cross ploughed. Some use tiles for wet fern lands. In reclaiming “brush” land, one way is to make an open ditch, three feet wide, and as deep as the drainage will admit. Next summer the vegetable matter on the surface will burn, which kills the roots, and frequently lays the brush as though it had been “slashed;” burn again the following summer, and with a little labour the land will be ready for winter wheat. Another way which is adopted often on bottom land, timbered with maple, ash, and only a few firs, is to “slash” (cut small growth) all but the large growth, felling all one way as much as possible. The best time to do this is through the months of June or July, when the sap is at its highest. After the trees have lain one or two months fire is set to them in different places. When there is much small brush, it should be piled upon the larger growth. Care must be taken before fire is set that there is no brush or other inflammable substance near the dwelling or out-buildings. Some farmers cut the vine-maple off about six feet from the ground; take a yoke of cattle, “hitch on” to the top of these stubs, and “snake” them out. The soil being loose and the main roots near the top of the ground, it is not difficult to cut with an axe any root that may hold fast. I have seen patches of excellent wheat, the ground for which had never been ploughed up. The farmer stated that after “snaking” out the roots and sowing the wheat

he took a yoke of cattle and dragged a large brush, made of branches, over the ground, to smooth it down and cover the wheat. The crop on one of the patches (a few acres) was a volunteer crop (second year without sowing), and promised to be good.

The large trees on a heavily wooded farm are usually felled in the following way:—Take a long shanked auger, and in a standing tree bore two holes, one above the other, at an angle, so that they will meet some distance inside. Introduce lighted pitch faggots into the upper hole. The flame draws air from the lower hole, and acts like a blow pipe. The inside of the tree beneath the sap burns quickly, and in a short time a huge furnace roars, which can often be heard at a considerable distance. The sappy outside does not burn, and thus a mere shell of the tree is left. This shell is chopped through on the side of the tree on which it is desired it should fall, and the tree comes down with a crash.

The usual price for “slashing” is from ten to twelve dollars (40s. to 48s. English) per acre, cutting all down (except the large growth) and piling it up ready for burning.

The best and cheapest team a farmer can have is a good yoke of cattle. They can make their own living, and it costs but little to rig them for work. They are the best adapted for the kind of work usually done on a new farm.

Course of Cropping.

After breaking up new land, perhaps a first crop of peas or oats is put in, or it is left as a summer fallow until the early part of October, when wheat is put into the ground. The crops commonly raised are—wheat, barley, oats, and peas. The green crops are—turnips (swedes), mangel-wurzel, vetches, potatoes, and all kinds of vegetables; cabbages and pumpkins attaining a very great size. Of the cereals, wheat does best; of the leguminous plants, peas are the most profitable.

Nowhere does the potato flourish more, or have a better flavour; it is grown in great quantities by the natives.

The rotation of crops in virgin soil is, wheat after fallow, then a crop of peas; wheat again, or oats; and then a fallow is made for turnips; and by this time the land will be pretty clean. After turnips, a crop of barley or oats (spring sown) is raised and followed by potatoes, the land being well manured, and thus mended. After this, farming operations are conducted on the same rotation four-course system as in Great Britain.

The above rotation, however, may be exchanged for whatever expediency dictates.

The following are the usual quantities of seed sown per acre:—of wheat, $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; barley, $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; oats, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 bushels; peas, 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, vetches, $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels. The sowing times for oats, barley, peas, and tares are from middle of March to end of April. These crops are harvested 1st of August to end of September. Potatoes are planted in March and April, and are gathered early part of November. Turnips sown between 1st June and middle of July, and are gathered with the potatoes. Autumn cultivation not yet common. Clovers, lucerne, and trefoil are good fodder plants. Sown in October, they give bulky spring crops. Alsike clover the best perennial; crimson clover should be cut in flower. Lucerne likes light sandy soil, with calcareous subsoil—8 years' successive crops. Trefoil, dry,

elevated pastures, deep roots, remains green long; cattle like it. Other plants, sainfoin, tares, rye-grass, fescue grasses, do well sown in autumn.

PRODUCTION ON GOOD FARMS in SOUTH-EASTERN and EASTERN DISTRICTS of
VANCOUVER ISLAND in 1874.

Wheat from 30 to 35 bushels per acre.

Barley „ 40 „ 45 „ „

Oats „ 50 „ 60 „ „

Pease „ 40 „ 45 „ „

Potatoes „ 150 „ 200 „ „

Turnips „ 20 „ 25 tons „

Timothy hay about 2 „ „

Hops (equal to the best Kentish), 1000 to 1700 lbs. per acre.

Butter, per cow, after feeding calf, about 150 lbs. per annum.

Apples, pears, plums, cherries, white and red raspberries, red, white, and black currants, and most kinds of fruit thrive remarkably well. Apples have measured 13 inches in circumference, and weighed 19 ounces, and been well flavoured and good for cooking or eating. Pears, many of them 11 inches in circumference, juicy, and fine flavour.

Common winter cabbage have grown 3 to 4 feet in circumference. Red cabbage and cauliflower equally large and sound.

Carrots, parsnips, onions large.

Tomatoes equal to the best English.

Cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, and poultry do well; sheep (South Down), mutton choice, fleeces light, wool good; pigs easily reared; wolves and panthers (not dangerous to man) sometimes kill pigs and sheep.

The average production, of course, is not likely to be so good as the above over a number of years, even if an intelligent system of farming should be the rule; but the emigrant may see from the above the capabilities of the soil.

In England it is believed that the average production is—wheat, 28 to 30 bushels; barley, 35 to 40 bushels; potatoes, about 160 bushels, or 4 tons.

The following Table will show to the reader the—

ESTIMATED AVERAGE YIELD, per STATUTE ACRE, of the PRINCIPAL CORN
CROPS, and of POTATOES in various BRITISH COLONIES.

COLONIES.	Years (ended 31st March in some Colonies).	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Maize.	Potatoes.	
		Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	
New South Wales	1869-70	16·90	16·24	23·16	38·12	3·16	
Victoria {	1869-70	19·75	24·55	25·98	20·50	3·10	
	1870-71	10·10	12·26	14·98	19·75	3·27	
South Australia .. {	1869-70	5·74	8·99	14·82	..	3·60	
	1870-71	11·51	14·74	14·28	..	2·83	
Tasmania.. .. . {	1869-70	16·10	23·09	25·71	..	3·63	
	1870-71	15·63	21·23	22·34	..	3·67	
New Zealand {	1869-70	27·27	31·14	33·47	..	5·44	
	1870-71	23·56	25·26	31·21	..	5·14	
Natal..	1869	12·27	{ The produce of these crops is partly cut green for fodder. }				Bushels. 131·3
Cape of Good Hope ..	1865	6·87	8·92	4·35	6·48	..	

I may also invite attention to the—

ESTIMATED AVERAGE YIELD, per STATUTE ACRE, of the PRINCIPAL CORN CROPS, and of POTATOES, in IMPERIAL BUSHEL, in various FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

COUNTRIES.	Date of Returns.	Wheat and Spelt.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans and Peas.	Maize.	Potatoes..
	Busbels.	Busbels.	Busbels.	Busbels.	Busbels.	Busbels.	Busbels.	Busbels..
Sweden	1869	..	..	..	..	10·4	..	91·2
Norway	1865	22·8	23·4	35·8	22·3	19·6	..	236·1
Prussia	1867	17·1	25·1	32·9	16·7	17·5	..	..
Wurtemberg	1870	40·0	23·6	26·2	20·1	14·1	..	162·7
Holland	1869	25·7	41·7	39·3	20·6	24·4	..	151·1
Belgium	1866	22·8	34·9	41·2	24·6	23·2	..	..
France	1869	17·1	20·9	25·6	15·5	13·8	17·1	111·3
Portugal	1865	8·9	11·1	18·6	6·7	..	20·0	..
Spain.. .. .	1857	23·3	24·3	..	8·4	..	..	..
Austria	1870	14·3	16·1	18·1	14·6	10·1	..	103·5
Greece	1867	13·2	18·8	19·0	..	..	17·4	..
United States	1869	13·2	27·1	29·6	13·2	..	22·9	106·3

As regards the *United States*, 17 bushels of wheat per acre may be assumed as the wheat average of Minnesota; Ohio, 9·96; Illinois from year to year not more than 8 bushels. Four States only, by the census of 1850, reached *an average* of 15 bushels per acre. Oats average, say 19 to 30 bushels. Potatoes 75 to 120 bushels per acre.

The following ARTICLES of PRODUCE and STOCK were EXHIBITED at the PROVINCIAL FARMING SHOW, VICTORIA, 1874, also at the SAANICH SHOW (close to VICTORIA), and at the COWICHAN, CHEMANIS, and SALT SPRING SHOW, held at MAPLE BAY (up the east coast, 45 miles from VICTORIA).

Pure Short-horn Durham bull; other bulls; bull-calves; work oxen; cows; rams; ewes; boars; sows; stallions; brood mares; saddle, carriage, and draught horses.

Wheat; barley; oats; peas; hops.

Turnips (Swedish and white); mangel-wurzel; carrots; beet; cattle-cabbage.

Turkeys; geese; ducks; dorking-fowls; pigeons; rabbits; eggs; butter, salt and fresh; cheese.

Apples; pears; peaches; plums; grapes; quinces; peas; maize.

Potatoes; cabbages; lettuces; parsnips; vegetable-marrows; cauliflowers; celery; beets; onions; melons; tomatoes; pumpkins; squashes; cucumbers.

Agricultural implements; ploughs; thrashing machines; salmon barrelled and preserved in tins; currant wines; cider; beer; cranberries in barrels; waggons; harness, &c.

The same as the above, in quantity per acre, and in quality can be produced by the district of Nanaimo—(a flourishing coal port, 79 miles from Victoria) and by Comox district, farther up the east coast, 134 miles from Victoria.

Comox is a picturesque settlement—in one locality 12,000 acres well watered and dotted with oaks and alders—fine stock and crops at Comox—also church, school, &c.

Comox looks much to Nanaimo as a market.

Prices of Farm Stock.

VICTORIA MARKET, 1874.

						English.			
Beef cattle, dressed weight 12 to 16 cents per lb.	£0	0	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	to £0	0	8			
Cows with calves, 35 to 60 dollars each	..	..	7	0	0	..	12	0	0
Dry cows, 30 dollars each	..	..	6	0	0	..			
Calves, 10 to 17 dollars each	..	..	2	0	0	..	3	8	0
Yearlings (good), 20 to 30 dollars each	..	..	4	0	0	..	6	0	0
Two-year olds, 25 to 37 dollars each	..	..	5	0	0	..	7	8	0
Three-year olds, 40 to 42 dollars each	..	..	8	0	0	..	8	8	0
Pigs dressed, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 cents per lb.	..	..	0	0	6	..	0	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chickens, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per dozen	..	..	0	18	0	..			
Eggs, 30 to 75 cents per dozen	..	..	0	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	0	3	0

Prices of Farm Stock (presumed “in gold”), in 1874, at **Olympia** (140 miles by sea from VICTORIA), on the UNITED STATES Territory, whence Stock reaches VICTORIA MARKET, paying 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty.

Beef cattle on foot, 8 to 10 cents per lb. market well stocked.

						English.			
Milk cows, 40 to 50 dollars each	..	..	£8	0	0	to £10	0	0	
Veal calves, 8 to 10 dollars each	..	..	1	12	0	..	2	0	0
Yearlings, 10 to 15 dollars each	..	..	2	0	0	..	3	0	0
Two-year olds, 20 to 22 dollars each	..	..	4	0	0	..	4	8	0
Work cattle, 150 to 250 dollars per yoke (pair)	..	30	0	0	0	..	50	0	0
Sheep, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 dollars each	..	..	0	14	0	..	0	16	0
Pigs (dressed), 11 to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb.	..	..	0	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	0	0	6
Hides, 4 to 5 dollars each	..	..	0	16	0	..	1	2	0
Work-horses, 150 dollars (30% English) each for good ones; common, 30 to 40 dollars (6% to 8%).									

Prices of Farm Produce.

VICTORIA MARKET, 1874.

	Cents.		s.	d.		lbs.
Wheat, per lb., 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 3, or English (at 3 cents),	7	9	per bushel,	62		
Barley	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	5	2	..	50
Oats	2 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	.. (at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents),	4	2	..	40
Pease	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	6	7	..	63
Potatoes	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2	.. (at 2 cents),	4	8	per sack,	56
Carrots	2	..	14	0	..	168
Turnips	2	..	9	4	..	112
Beets	3	..			about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.	

Mangel-Wurzel, per lb., 2 cents, or English, 9% 6s. 8d. per ton of 2240 lbs.

Hay, per ton of 2000 lbs., 20 to 30 dollars, or 4% to 6% per load of 18 cwt. (2016 lbs.).

AVERAGE WHOLESALE DEALERS' PRICES OF MEAT IN GREAT BRITAIN for 3 years ending 1870—per stone of 8 lbs., sinking offal.

	English.				British Columbia.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	Dollars.	Dollars.
Cattle, 4 qualities, ranging from ..	3	3½	to	5	4	or 0·82 to 1·33
Calves, 2 ,, ,, ..	4	2½	,,	5	5	,, 1·05 ,, 1·35
Sheep, 4 ,, ,, ..	3	5¾	,,	5	7½	,, 0·87 ,, 1·39
Lambs, 1 quality ,, ..	6	2½	,,	6	10	,, 1·55 ,, 1·70
Pigs, 2 qualities ,, ..	3	6½	,,	5	8½	,, 0·88 ,, 1·41

The average prices of wheat, barley, and oats, in England and Wales, for 3 years ending 1872, were—

Wheat, about 2½ cents per lb.	..	..	..	(6s. 8d. per bushel).
Barley ,, 2 ,, ..	..	..	..	(4s. 6d. ,,).
Oats ,, 1¾ ,, ..	..	..	..	(2s. 11d. ,,).

Agricultural implements cost about one-third more in British Columbia than in England.

Cost of Labour on Farms—with a few words on that subject.

All labour is dear in British Columbia.

An ordinary unskilled labourer, such as one would employ to dig or cut fire-wood, receives 1·50 dollar (6s. English) a day; if he can lay claim to skill enough to qualify him to attend to a garden or an orchard, he readily commands 2 dollars (8s. English), or 2·50 dollars (10s. English) a day.

Farm servants, engaged by the month, are paid at wages from 20 to 40 dollars (4l. to 8l. English) per month, with board and lodging, according to the kind of work required of them, and the responsibility of their positions. A few Indians are employed in the seaboard districts, at 15 to 20 dollars (3l. to 4l. English) per month, with board and lodging, by farmers who understand their character. In the interior Indians are largely employed as herders and for general farm work. In Vancouver Island and the New Westminster district, it may be said that a dollar (4s. English) a day, with board and lodging, is the pay of the farm labourer. Higher wages are paid in the interior.

However strong and active a man may be, he cannot expect the highest wage until he knows his work and the ways of the country. At the above high wages, farmers, of course, employ as little labour as possible; indeed, the item of *labour is the great leak* in the farming business in British Columbia, as it is in most young countries.

The farmer in British Columbia can get good land for nothing, or almost nothing; and he gets as high prices for much of his produce as the English farmer gets. The British Columbian farmer pays no rent, but his labour bill may be set off, to some extent, against the rent of the English farmer.

If the British Columbian farmer can, himself and by his family, do a large share of the farm work, he must make money quickly. That is the point.

Winter Care of Stock.

Nothing strikes a British Columbian farmer more, who visits Eastern Canada, New England, or even Scotland, than the enormous haymows on the farms, and the small number of cattle to eat them. The cost of rearing cattle in some of these countries exceeds their value when reared. It must cost ten times as much to winter an animal in these countries as in British

Columbia at present; and the value of the animal when sold to the butcher is not largely different in the two places.

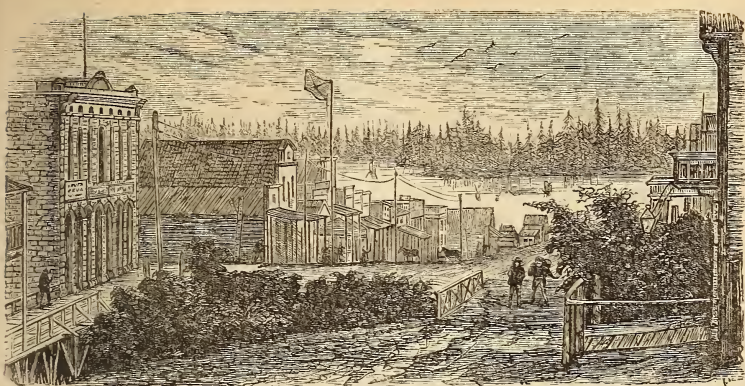
The winter *food* question is not a very important one in Vancouver Island. Some shelter, protection from excessive rain, and a dry bed, are what cattle need in winter in Vancouver Island more than stored food. The undergrowth in the neighbouring forest generally enables cattle to find food for themselves; still it is best (and particularly as you get north from Victoria) to have a moderate supply of hay and straw for winter food, if only to entice the cattle to approach the homestead. They then drop manure within reach, and become tame. A dry bed is important. With so much wood at hand, rough sheds can easily be built. The roof may be "shakes" (splitwood). Ferns cut in early summer and stored, or branches of firs, make beds. If the site is exposed, and the locality is one affording a sale for fire-wood, piles of fire-wood will afford protecting walls. Milk cows and calves, or sick cattle, may want closer sheds. When all is said upon this subject, cattle require very much less attention in winter in Vancouver Island than in England and Scotland. A little care will make them even improve between December and April.

These remarks on Winter food, or care of stock, apply to the whole West Cascade Region of the province.



LUCK POLICY IN FARMING IS BAD.





Part of Columbia-street, New Westminster. From a photograph.

West Cascade Region.

British Columbia—Mainland portion ; vast country—really not much known yet—length from corner to corner 800 miles ; length by straight north and south line, about 420 miles ; greatest breadth, about 400 miles.

The Rocky Mountain Range forms the eastern boundary of the province.

The generally received idea is that the Cascade Range is almost parallel to Rocky Range, between Rocky Range and coast (see Map) ; very ramified, its own average breadth from 15 to 50 miles ; average height, 7000 feet, with towering volcanic peaks ; send down in westerly and southerly directions rugged mountain spurs to the sea ; deep, gloomy sea inlets run up between these giant spurs ; inlets on coast braced together by high mountains, sometimes called a "Coast Range." The physical structure of so vast an Alpine country is, however, probably not yet precisely known, and some experienced travellers describe differently the direction of these so-called "Cascade" and "Coast" Ranges (see Appendix.) Fine scenery on the whole Mainland coast ; the overflow of lakes pours down the steep declivities ; avalanches have cut lines down the forest from mountain summits to water's edge, green timber growing where the descents are old ; crevices here and there filled with snow ; through rifts and gorges on the elevated shores are seen mountains far inland, some domed, others peaked.

The Cascade Range runs south into American territory, is broken up in Oregon and Northern California into spurs, known as Siskiyou Range, then extends to the east by connecting ranges, and forms the famous Sierra Nevadas of California.

The reader, adopting for the present the above common notion as to these Cascade and Coast Ranges, will be good enough to fix his eye upon the Cascade Range (see Map), for, as already said, it divides British Columbia into two grand divisions—the *humid forest region*, west of the Cascade Range (that is, between the Cascade Range and the sea), and the *dry grazing region*, east of the Cascade Range (that is, between the Cascade Range and the Rocky Range).

The West Cascade Region, particularly that portion lying opposite to Vancouver Island, is similar in climate and productions, and also in contour to the island, but has grander features. The island is, in fact, a piece broken

off from this Mainland Region. The soil of the West Cascade Region is moist and loamy, with luxuriant vegetation.

The East Cascade Region is more open, with extensive plains and valleys, though mountainous still; climate dry, timber scarce and rather poor; soil light; herbage excellent.

Soils of Mainland.

I cannot accurately describe these: the geological survey now in progress will enable better information to be given in subsequent editions. One description, by a well-informed gentleman, states that the soil in the lower country, and again north of Quesnel River, and generally in the Cascade and Selkirk Ranges, is moist, well wooded, and mixed with, perhaps mainly constituted of, decomposed organic substances.

In the middle of the province, the Fraser, Thompson, and Okanagan districts, the soil is light, generally a sandy loam of no great depth, usually immediately superimposed on gravel beds (northern drift), occasionally of very great thickness, and always affording perfect drainage.

Another gentleman says that the soil of the Mainland is of three kinds. The first is rich and loamy, consisting of decayed vegetable matter and alluvial deposits. This is the character of the soil by the banks of the streams or lakes, and in the bottoms of valleys, and wherever land has been formed of deposits brought down by the streams from the mountains.

The second kind of soil (characterising the basin of the River Fraser, but not the country near its mouth) is lighter and more sandy. Being formed by the disintegration and decomposition of rocks (a process that may be seen any rainy day), it contains a great deal of lime (the mountains being frequently limestone). To this fact, together with the strong sun, is probably to be ascribed its fertility, notwithstanding its lightness. It is found to a depth varying from 1 to 3 feet, and beneath it is a subsoil of gravel, sometimes of clay.

The third description of soil is neither so good as the first nor so light as the second; it rather resembles ordinary land in the mother country. Such is, for instance, the soil around Williams Lake, on the Brigade Trail, &c.

New Westminster District.—General Remarks.

The "West Cascade Region," above mentioned, is, as also above said, very similar to Vancouver Island in its climate and productions. Not much farming land compared with area; country not explored—probably farming land in valleys and flats (witness the Pemberton Meadows, Lake Lillooet). The rivers which flow from Cascade Range into the great sea inlets are comparatively small, and often have rocky banks; alluvial deposits (*with one grand exception*) are scanty in that portion of Cascade Region opposite to Vancouver Island, but such deposits are said to be considerable farther north, as at Skena and Nasse Rivers—the "grand exception" above named is the low land at and near the *mouth of Fraser River*, and for some distance up it, and up tributaries of the lower portion of Fraser River (see Map).

The Fraser River does not come from Cascade Range, but from Rocky

Range. It is the only river in British Columbia (except in the far north-west of the province) which has strength to cross the dry country between Rocky and Cascade Ranges, and get through the latter range to the sea. It is fed in its course by streams running from every point of the compass—a noble river, but, as already said, navigable only for considerable stretches, owing to rapids. Yale is the head of steamboat navigation from the sea. After bursting through the mountain passes at Yale and Hope, the Fraser is a tranquil, steady, clay-coloured stream for the latter part of its course.

The whole distance from Harrison Lake to the present mouth of the Fraser was probably once an estuary. This former estuary has been gradually filled up by sedimentary deposits from the river, a work still going on, protected by Vancouver Island as a breakwater. (See Map.)

This country on the lower portion of the Fraser is what I may call the *New Westminster District*. It is in general a wooded district, but has large tracts of open arable and grazing land, delicious atmosphere—no malaria or ague—water-carriage, facilities for shipment. Snow begins in January and is gone by March; not continuous; plenty of fish and game in the district; will raise anything Vancouver Island will raise and more; three large saw-mills, employing 600 people; a grist-mill; distillery; farmer's society, &c. About 200 settlers located themselves in this district during 1874.

At the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition, 1874, the New Westminster District competed strongly in all exhibits with the island district, and carried away prizes for cattle, pigs, poultry, wheat, oats, peas, flax, carrots, turnips, butter, eggs, cheese, melons, tomatoes, pumpkins; potatoes, cabbage, cauliflowers, onions, beans, maize, apples, pears, grapes, quinces, peaches, hops, pickled salmon, canned salmon, &c.

The 'Mainland Guardian' (New Westminster Journal), said, on March, 1872:—"A minimum yield of from 30 to 40 bushels of wheat to the acre, "is the ordinary average yield in the districts of Kamloops, Okanagan, Nicola, "Sumass, Chilliwack, and the Lower Fraser. Between the town of New "Westminster and the mouth of the river, a yield very much exceeding this "is often obtained, not because of better and more suitable soil, but solely due "to more careful cultivation; 50 bushels of oats and an equal yield of barley "per acre are commonly reached. Indian corn yields per acre 60 or 70 bushels. "The yield of roots and green crops is generally encouraging, being unsurpassed "by any in the world.

"On one farm the yield of potatoes was 7 tons, on another as high as 15 "tons per acre. Not a few specimens reached the enormous weight of 2½ lbs. "and even 3 lbs. Turnips give 25 tons to the acre. Onions from 4 to 6 tons; "while carrots, cabbages, beets, cauliflowers, &c., grow to a size which may "without exaggeration be described as enormous.

"Of fruits it may be enough to state, that the ordinary kinds (apples, "pears, plums, cherries, currants, gooseberries, strawberries, &c.) found in the "eastern part of the Dominion and in England, grow luxuriantly and yield "plentifully."

CAPABILITIES OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT.

The capabilities of this district, which contains nearly half a million acres, are not quite realised by the public. Men look at the large trees which cover a great portion of it, and shrug their shoulders. It should, however

be remembered that the New Westminster district contains the only large mass of choice agricultural land anywhere on the mainland of the Pacific slope lying actually upon the ocean, with a shipping port in its midst. A navigable river cuts it through, which is sheltered at its mouth. The river is full of salmon and other good fish, and the district abounds with game. The climate, though somewhat humid, has neither the wetness of Western Oregon, nor the withering dryness of some of the larger Californian valleys.

Similar land to that of the New Westminster district is found immediately south of it, across the national boundary line, but, being formed by smaller rivers, it does not lie in such a mass. The land is lower, and comprises more tidelands cut up by sloughs.

I do not remember in Oregon or California any such land, so placed, as the New Westminster district. Portions of the Willamette valley, in Oregon, have as good soil, and the Willamette valley is far larger, but the nature of the approach from the sea to Portland is a drawback. In California, the transport from the interior to the shipping port adds considerably to the cost of wheat. I should be sorry to see our British Columbian settlers "crazy on wheat"—dairy or mixed farming will be best in the New Westminster district—but it is clear that the New Westminster district farmers will be less dependent on provincial markets for any wheat they may produce than farmers in other parts of the mainland. Being upon the ocean, will give them the world for a market, in case of need.

The drawbacks are not greater than have been overcome by settlers in places that do not present such general attractions of fertile soil, situation, climate, &c. A good part of the district is covered with very large timber; other parts require draining and dyking; the mosquitoes in some years and in certain localities are troublesome for a short time. But go where a settler will he has to balance conditions.

Freshets and Tidal Overflows.

The Fraser River and tributaries of it overflow a portion of the prairies in this district for a short time in early summer, when the volume of water in the rivers is increased by the drainage which follows the melting of snow throughout the country. This rising of the water is called a "freshet." The whole Pacific slope—California, Oregon, Washington territory, and British Columbia,—owing to the physical structure of this part of the continent, is more or less liable to severe floods over low lying districts near rivers.

The rivers generally rise quickly.

The sea also comes over a portion of the land near the mouth of the Fraser—generally in stormy weather in winter. This happens perhaps two or three times in winter, for a few hours at each time. These tidal overflows do not interfere with cropping. The above mentioned "summer freshets" do not overflow these "tidelands."

Parliament has lately passed an Act to facilitate dyking.

New Westminster District.—Special Description.

I will describe the New Westminster district, beginning at the mouth of the River Fraser:—

We find there extensive, low, rich "tidelands or flats," free from timber,

with patches of willows, rosebushes, and, about the border of higher ground, crab-apples. A coarse grass, called "swamp hay," is plentiful. There are a good many salt-water sloughs, which add to the difficulty of dyking.

Farm after farm is being occupied in this section, and there is room for settlers. There are 29,000 acres of very good land in an island between the north and south arms of the Fraser.

On the north arm, a small settlement of about 20 farmers; 500 acres cultivated; samples of red and white wheat described as 5½ feet high, yielding 50 bushels to the acre; average of course less. Two potatoes ("Breely Prolific") yielded 67 lbs. Timothy hay, barley, oats, peas, &c., good. A few grasshoppers appeared in 1872.

Churches, schools, &c. Visiting clergyman lectured lately on the "Origin of the English Language."

Left bank of "south arm," land very fertile, easily cleared from brush, and drained; dykes are being made; buildings erected. 47 men, 5 women, 15 white children, and 10 half-breeds.

Mud bay—oyster-beds, great resort of wild geese and ducks.

A district exactly like this mouth of Fraser district, indeed, part of it, within the United States territory, near the mouth of the Lummi and back from Semiahmoo, is filling up with population rapidly.

Ascending the Fraser, we in no long time come to forests on each side; giant pines, cedars, maple, alders, cottonwood; real agricultural value of the land cannot be seen. Luxuriant vegetation in the forest—berry-bushes of all kinds, also ferns, ground-creepers, moss—the sweet-scented white flowers of the wild apple-tree shine among the green foliage in summer. Scenery and products altogether on a grand scale. But let the settler take heart: he is beside the sea here, no railway carriage to the seaboard; there is much good land requiring little clearing, and plenty well worth the clearing. There are in parts extensive flats covered with wild hay, also fine prairies with fertile soil; excellent crops and dairy yield; thriving farms near the town of New Westminster, and settlements also at Pitt River, Keatsey, Langley, Matsqui, &c. For instance, at Pitt River 20,000 acres of good arable land requiring no clearing—the part of it subject to freshets is good now for grazing.

At Langley a newspaper correspondent ('Daily Standard,' Victoria, November, 1872) describes farms with "several hundred acres of alluvial soil, "black mould with clay bottom; at your feet several square miles of green "meadow land, the gleaming river beyond, and across it the dark Cascade "range; a stream full of trout meandering through the meadow." Another farm of "1000 acres, every part cultivated, drained, and laid off into large "parks of 30 to 40 acres each: the steading in the form of a square; a "fine mansion-house." Another of "800 acres, 200 cultivated, fine black "soil, all fit for the plough, drained by a stream which skirts it." Again, "600-acre grass dairy farm; cows, Durham breed: farmer cures butter." The next, "300 acres, stock and crop owned by the blacksmith. Good "public school; neat Presbyterian church." The writer ascribes an extraordinary production per acre to these farms.

Between Langley and Matsqui, eastward from south end of Langley Prairie and running southward towards the boundary, is a strip of very good land—trees burnt—undergrowth dense. In this neighbourhood is one of the finest

belts of alder land in the district; it begins near the river, runs south seven miles, three miles wide, comparatively level, free from undergrowth and above high water; Matsqui Prairie four miles square.

Higher up the river still (see Map), where the rivers Sumass and Chillikweyuk (Chilliwack) join the Fraser, are rising settlements—Sumass Prairie 25,000 acres. Prime beef, choice butter and cheese, fine cereals; wide-spreading fertile prairies and valleys here, only thinly peopled yet; 60 to 70 farms; good dwellings, barns, stables, churches, schools, shops, grist-mill; 600 acres wheat raised last year, 40 to 50 bushels an acre; 200 acres oats: also potatoes, peas, beans, hops, fruit, and even tobacco; supply beef to Yale and Hope (Yale gets some beef also from Nicola); extent of prairies great; much good land also on the Chilliwack above the valley that would do well when cleared. Drawback to Sumass and Chilliwack at present, overflow in parts from river freshets; roads rather muddy in bad weather.

The country between Chilliwack on the west and Cheam on the east, a distance of twelve miles, and between the Fraser river on the north and the mountains on the south, a distance of fifteen miles, contains a large quantity of rich agricultural land at present unoccupied. Although nearly all timbered, it is of a nature requiring very little labour in clearing.

Perhaps the best of the whole view of the Lower Fraser district—a view very extensive and beautiful—is to be had from the top of Discovery Mountain in this neighbourhood.

I will sketch in the Appendix one year's history of these Sumass and Chilliwack settlements by giving extracts from local newspapers, and thus will photograph a settler's life in the New Westminster district before the mental eye of the intending emigrant. The winter was the worst known in America for forty years. I will also give in the Appendix an abridged special report on this district generally. (See Appendix.)

The New Westminster district and Vancouver Island district, already described, are the only two portions of the West Cascade region that are "settled." It would appear that another part of this region is worthy of attention, namely, the country in the neighbourhood of the Nasse and Skena Rivers.

Nasse-Skena District.

Steam vessels from Nanaimo now ascend the River Skena. It is one of the routes selected by miners in order to reach the district of Omineca (Peace River). This river is acquiring importance, and will probably require some lighthouses and buoys.

The River Nasse is a little further to the north than the Skena, and derives a certain amount of importance from its giving access to a more northern region than that nearer the Skena, and from the fact that that region is also rich in gold mines. (See Cassiar mines page 77.) Both are valuable also for their fisheries. They receive the waters from or near the Lake Alal, which is on the high lands. The River Nasse is quite close to the frontier of Alaska, which by no means detracts from its importance. The steamer 'Union' ascended it in 1865 to a distance of more than 25 miles from its mouth.

The following account is taken from the 'British Colonist,' Victoria, 17th September, 1872:—

"Messrs. Steele and Shorts, who went to Omineca by the Nasse River route and returned by the way of Fort St. James and Fraser River, are loud in their praise of the magnificent tracts of farming

land over which they passed in going and coming. On the Nasse for forty miles above its mouth, large grassy flats spread out like tables on either side. They were not dissimilar to the delta lands of the Fraser, except that they will not require dyking to be brought under cultivation. From the mouth to the Falls of Nasse River is forty miles. To this point, and above it again, the river may be navigated by steamers of light draught. On either side of the river are immense tracts of prairie-land; but the finest tracts in the province lie between the Nasse and Skena. The distance between the rivers is about a hundred and forty miles, and the country is a natural garden, covered with wild timothy knee high (it was in June when the travellers crossed), well watered by small brooks, and here and there belts of timber or Indian potato-patches. Thousands of acres adapted for stock-raising or farming were seen. The virgin soil is like the rich black loam of the famous Sacramento Valley, where sixty bushels of wheat used to be grown to an acre. The valley is from four to fifteen miles wide, and so level that a buggy may be driven the entire distance—the Indians having there maintained a good wide road for centuries. At several points the native suspension bridges across gulches and rivers are among the most marvellous objects yet discovered in the country. One of these bridges is four feet wide and a hundred and twenty-five feet long, and spans a ravine seventy feet above a running stream. It bears the appearance of great antiquity, but is perfectly safe and strong. At this bridge there is a wonderful spring of sweet soda-water, of which the party drank with great relish. Its medicinal qualities, as mentioned by the Indians, are astonishing. In June, Nasse River was full of oolachans and salmon. The 'catch' was simply enormous, and as evidence of the equable character of the climate and the capabilities of the country to support a large population, we may mention that the Indian tribes inhabiting this section are more numerous than in any other section of the province, and that game is very plentiful. Between Fort St. James and Nation River another magnificent country was crossed. At the Hudson Bay Company's stations acres of wheat, oats, barley, beans, &c., were thriving in the open air, while the tables were graced with white fish and Arctic trout and game."

Another writer says:—

"There is a nice little prairie between Babine and the Forks of Skena where a hundred settlers could easily find room to locate. The soil is black vegetable loam, with red top grass, and a stream runs through it. This creek is a branch of the Aquilgate (named after a tribe of Indians who dwell in the neighbourhood, who are very peaceable and well-disposed to the whites). They are mostly Roman Catholics. Babine is, from all accounts, the best fishing station in the country; the Indians catch salmon and salmon-trout the whole year round. The timber in this section of the country is mostly spruce and black pine."

Some years ago Major Downie made similar statements in his report of an exploration of the Skena River and country. He says that, after passing the coast range, the valleys present extensive tracts of good land well suited for settlement. He took two days to traverse one of them, which he says is as fine a farming country as one could wish to see. On a large tributary on the north side, within this territory, the land is described as good and well adapted for farming; and there the Indians grow plenty of potatoes. He describes fine flats running back to the mountains, which recede four or five miles from the river; speaks of the Skena country being in parts the best-looking mineral country he had seen in British Columbia; alludes to gold which he found there; mentions that the River Skena passes through an extensive coal country, the seams cut through by the river varying from three to thirty-five feet in thickness; superior to any that he had seen in Vancouver's Island (where the mines at Nanaimo and elsewhere are already of value commercially), or in British Columbia; and in other reports he says salmon and other fish are in inconceivable abundance.

Major Pope, chief Engineer of an American Telegraph Company, who surveyed this portion of British Columbia, stated in his Reports that open, grassy plains, with trees interspersed as in a park, appeared near the Skena, particularly as its head-waters were approached.

Again, in the Victoria 'Standard,' towards the end of 1872, a writer, describing the passage from Victoria to Skena, said:—

"The entire voyage is very little different from river navigation, except in one or two places that have to be crossed; to those who think that the portion of country extending up to Stekin River

is of little value, allow me to say such will soon be proved to be otherwise; that amidst the apparent desolation will spring up towns, villages, hamlets, &c., which the unthinking traveller will smile upon when you call his attention to such a possibility. Yet such will be amidst those mountain fastnesses; many a rich mineral deposit lies hidden for the present, but will be discovered and developed as man's requirements call for them. . . . Further, I am informed that north of the Omineca country will be found land for farming purposes second to none in the province, so that in a few years you will have a district even of more importance to us here than in Cariboo."

It is possible that a practical farmer might find drawbacks to settlement in this Nasse-Skena country which were not apparent to travellers passing through it at a favourable season. A part of it may be like the beautiful swampy interior of Newfoundland. The Indians might at present be troublesome. The moisture might interfere with harvesting. I must, however, add that statements of the same kind as the above were made to me in California last year by an American scientific gentleman who had spent a considerable time in that portion of British Columbia, studying the character and language of the natives. He was well acquainted with the whole Pacific coast, and appeared to think that not the least promising part of British Columbia was in the neighbourhood of the Nasse and Skena rivers—a gold-bearing territory with moderate climate, good land, fine salmon rivers, valuable timber, also beds of coal, the whole situated close to the continually open navigation of the Pacific Ocean. The climate of the district near the coast resembles that of the New Westminster district, with considerably more moisture.

Queen Charlotte Islands

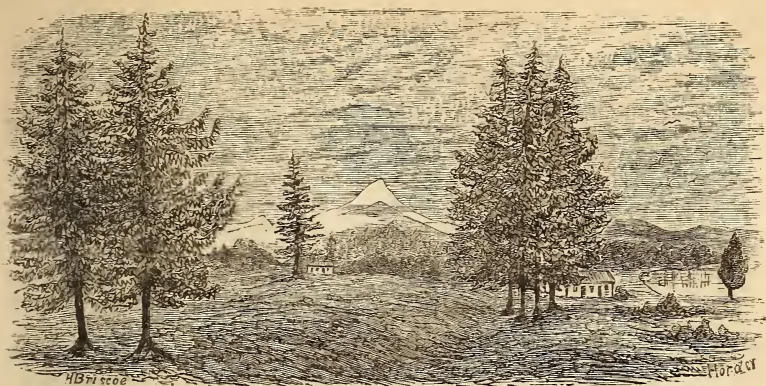
Are visible on clear days from the mainland as a hazy outline. Three principal islands—Graham, Moresby, and Prevost; probably much like Vancouver Island: western side more rugged than eastern side; southern islands lower than northern ones; Moresby Island high in interior; long stretch of flat land skirting whole eastern coast; islands densely wooded, chiefly "spruce" and fine cypress; alders on the flats; undergrowth luxuriant, chiefly salal; no deer nor wolves. Natives plant potatoes and turnips; climate mild and very moist; little snow; 1st April no snow on lowlands; during that month mosquitoes and humming-birds.

Indians tall and fair complexioned; both sexes good-looking; intelligent; good artistic skill; courageous, but cruel and vindictive; are becoming more used to strangers, but not to be trusted yet.

As regards the value of these islands, it is probable that so long as better portions of British Columbia invite settlers, these islands will only attract the attention of the hunter and miner. Gold has been found on them, and anthracite coal, &c. Hunters might find it profitable to kill sea-otters, which are numerous on the western shores. The farming capabilities of the islands, like those of Vancouver Island, will probably prove to be greater than is now supposed. But at present it is believed that the fierce character of the natives would render any attempts at permanent settlements, unless in strong parties, dangerous.

Winter Care of Stock.—West Cascade Region.

See remarks on this subject for Vancouver Island, p. 46. These apply to the whole West Cascade region of the province, as well as to Vancouver Island.



From a sketch by A. G. Dallas, Esq.

East Cascade Region.

I have described the West Cascade region of the province.

The emigrant, if he choose the West Cascade region, may either settle in Vancouver Island or in the New Westminster district, or he may become a pioneer in the more northern Nasse-Skena district.

The East Cascade region now demands attention.

This great region, lying between the Cascade Range and the Rocky Range (see Map) is about 800 miles long from corner to corner. A straight line, north and south, would give about 420 miles in length—the breadth varying from 200 to 225 miles.

This region is not level, as might be inferred from the Emigration Map. In fact, its surface is a series of continuous upheavals, among which (to speak of the best known portion of the region) we may distinguish three generally parallel ranges, or masses of mountains lying between the valley of the lower portion of the Fraser River and the Rocky Mountains. These ranges are—first, the Cascade, immediately east of the Fraser (at this part 3000 to 4000 feet high, and 40 to 50 miles broad); secondly, the Gold Range, east of the Columbia River (2000 to 5000 feet high); and thirdly, the Selkirk Range (7000 to 9000 feet high), lying east from the Arrow Lakes and enclosed within the “Big Bend” of the Columbia—so called because the river has to make a great bend to get round the Selkirk Range. (See Map.)

The Selkirk and Gold mountains may perhaps, broadly, be considered as flanking ridges of the Rocky Range. The Gold Range presents generally, west of the Lower Arrow Lake, a rolling hilly surface, and descends irregularly, and rather rapidly, to a sea-level of about 1100 feet round Okanagan Lake; 1000 feet round Nicola Lake; 800 to 1100 feet at Kamloops Lake.

Going towards the north, the country tends again to become higher, and the surface is marked by extensive tablelands of considerable altitude; for instance, the Bridge Creek plateau, or “divide,” between the Rivers Fraser and North Thompson, is 3500 feet high.

If we cross the Fraser and advance in a north-westerly direction (see Map), we enter the extensive region watered by the Chilcotin and its tributaries—a region surfaced like the last-mentioned, and having much the same general elevation, with of course considerable depressions. The highest part of the

trail from the coast, crossing the plateau, north-west of Tatla Lake, is 4360 feet above the sea-level.

Retracing our steps across the Fraser, say to about the line of the Horsefly district, and proceeding thence north and east (see Map), we find that the country quickly rises into the irregular mass of mountains (2500 to 6300 feet high) known as the Cariboo Mountains, and does not again lose its general elevation in that direction, but is merged soon in the mass of the Rocky Range.

The Fraser River has to make a great bend to get round the Cariboo Mountains, just as the Columbia River (see above) has to bend to get round the Selkirk Range.

I will not attempt to describe the immense area north and west from the headwaters of the Chilcotin, further than to say that it is believed to be somewhat less elevated than the highest Chilcotin plateau, abounding in large and small lakes, surrounded by mountains, not however without prairies and wide, park-like grassy plains (possibly somewhat swampy).

Rough Sketch of East Cascade Region.

The general features of its surface may be described in a few words—rugged *Alpine masses*, wooded on their slopes and holding lakes, swamps, and moist meadows in their embrace—arid mountain ranges and ridges crossing and recrossing—rolling wooded hills and grassy hillocks—*tablelands*, generally of high elevation, often of great extent, with and without forest—long terraced river-channels or valleys—wide, open valleys—deep, narrow, wooded valleys—short valleys (often called “prairies”)—a land also of *lakes*—innumerable narrow, elongated lakes of all sizes, from the bright pond to the lake 100 miles long, often linked by streams—some lakes steep-sided right round their margins, others wall-edged with intervening swamps, but oftener with gently shelving rims backed by open grassy hills. *Rivers*—smaller than the drainers of such mountain systems might be supposed to be (the light soil absorbs them)—generally deep-grooved and rapid—threading the whole country, bursting through rocky walls—seeking lake after lake—turning and twisting to find a way to the ocean, but for the most part unable to do so, nearly all being finally swallowed up by the Fraser and Columbia rivers. *Climate*, already described. *Trees*—An immense area in the southern part of the East Cascade region, say from the Horsefly district south to the American boundary, is generally unwooded. There are wide expanses of open land without trees, or only with belts, clumps, and dots of cone-bearing trees without underbrush—extending, however, into forests as the Rocky Mountains or their flanking ridges are approached, and again towards the northern and north-western portions of the region, say beyond the line of the Horsefly district and Williams Lake. Remotely, in the north-west, the country again becomes, in many parts, thinly wooded, and the firs are rarer. In the neighbourhood of the Skena, the maples and cottonwood in many parts contrast cheerily with the sombre hues of the conifers that abound in the Valley of the Fraser.

To attempt to sum up the capabilities of this great region (itself but a portion of the province of British Columbia) would, in the present condition of our knowledge of it, be an offence against common sense. We know a little about parts of the region, and may offer a few remarks accordingly.

Taking into consideration the healthfulness of the climate, with its short winters and long, bright summers, the fertile soil, vast extent of grass pasture, streams filled with fish, the abundance of minerals, and grand mountain and valley scenery—adding to these considerations the quantity of vacant public land open to settlement, and the comparatively small expense required to form a settlement, I know of no region on the continent of North America that holds out equal inducements to suitable settlers. It will be peopled by a happy and prosperous community within a few years after the opening of the railway through it, which shall supply cheap transportation for immigrants and their supplies, and for mining machinery.

The main drawback to this fine country at present is the want of quick and cheap transportation. This drawback will be removed by the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, lately commenced in British Columbia.

Farmers have produced, by the aid of a simple process of irrigation, wheat, barley, oats, Indian corn, timothy hay, potatoes, carrots, turnips, cabbages, tomatoes, muskmelons, watermelons, grapevine, tobacco, broom corn, sweet almond, castor-oil plant, peach, and almost all other fruits.

Fern is seldom seen in the East Cascade region. A few mosquitoes only are found along wooded watercourses. In some parts, flies trouble the animals.

Irrigation.

Irrigation is generally required for the production of grain in the East Cascade region. It is used in all parts from which a market is accessible, and sure and bountiful crops are obtained. The works consist generally of a dyke which retains the waters of a lake, or of a river, in such a way as to form a reservoir. In times of drought, once or twice during the summer this water is allowed to run through a conduit or ditch, which discharges into another ditch dug at the upper part of the fields which it is desired to irrigate. From this latter ditch proceed a large number of trenches, dug at regular distances along the fields, so that by allowing the water to remain for from 20 to 24 hours, the land between the trenches is moistened, and vegetation progresses as rapidly as if a grateful shower had watered the fields.

Even as managed now, irrigation is cheaper than clearing land in Eastern Canada. The cost of unsystematic irrigation, of course, will vary much in different parts of British Columbia. One authority says that irrigation in British Columbia costs 3 dollars (12s. English) an acre at present; but this appears to me either a high estimate, or it indicates want of skill, for irrigation (managed by individuals) costs only about 1 dollar (4s. English) per acre in Colorado, which country is not so well suited for irrigation as British Columbia. In India the cost was 2s. an acre many years ago, under a rude and cumbrous system. The cost is much less now.

The expense of irrigation is not an outlay like rent, or like the cost of clearing. Irrigation is rather to be classed as we would class manuring. The crops fully justify the outlay. The irrigating farmer has neither to clear nor to drain. His land is generally free from weeds and insects, and does not wear out. Another advantage is uniform quality of crop—the farmer being independent of seasons. The 'Rocky Mountain News' (Colorado) lately said—"Some weeks ago a shipment of flour from the Rough and Ready Mills of Denver was made to Boston, and so highly prized there that an order came back for fifty cart-loads. Being always grown by irrigation, it is not

“surprising that it should be better than the wheat of California, which is “not irrigated, and varies in quality with different seasons.”

This matter of irrigation is second in importance to none. Individuals already have done much in British Columbia; associated effort will do more, and by-and-by the province, and perhaps the Dominion, will help. The depth of the river channels is a difficulty in some parts, but this is better than having rivers that are liable to be dried up. The country is stored with water, and its conformation makes me think that local irrigation on some considerable systematised scale will be possible—unlike California, where, owing to the structure of the country, irrigation must be on a gigantic scale, if undertaken at all.

A few words may be added to explain the general principle of irrigation to emigrants who have not tried it in their own countries. It is an ascertained fact that water contains impurities, some of which are good for vegetation. When you spread water over the earth, much of this fertilising matter settles. In open soils through which water passes, the impurities are arrested as the water goes through. It is therefore an error to suppose that the soil can only be advantageously watered when there is a clay subsoil.

The land in a dry region like the East Cascade region must be regarded as being stored with soluble fertilisers, which have not been washed away by rains into running streams, but now remain, subject to local demands under some good plan of irrigation. In watering, you must not lay on water too strongly, or you will carry away more of this fertilising matter from the soil than you deposit. A level may be used to find in what direction the water will go with the slowest possible motion. Running water is better for irrigation than spring water, because it has absorbed ammonia from the atmosphere, and spring water generally contains only mineral matter.

The American correspondent of the ‘Field’ (English newspaper), Mr. Curley, states that the benefits of irrigation extend beyond the acreage to which it is directly applied. Where there is a barrier, as in mountain-bound localities, the evaporation from the irrigated portion generally again descends, and thus the moisture of the district is increased. Observation has convinced him as to the truth of this fact.

Grazing.

Though a large portion of the East Cascade region is arid and sterile, the country generally is pre-eminently fitted for grazing. The grasses are numerous and nutritious—bunch, sage, alkali, sower, redtop, sedge, with peavine, &c., &c.

In the absence of carefully-obtained statistics, it is believed there are in the province about 35,000 head of horned cattle, 6000 to 7000 horses, 12,000 to 15,000 sheep, and about 10,000 pigs—three-fourths of the cattle, and perhaps of the others also, being on the mainland. Farmers there have from 200 to 1000 cattle. Cattle multiply rapidly, and grow very large. Prices of course depend on quality to a large extent, but a rough average would give 10*l*. (50 dollars) for a cow; 20*l*. (100 dollars) for a horse; 1*l*. (5 dollars) for a pig; 1*l*. 8*s*. (7 dollars) for a sheep.

The bunch grass is a favourite grass. It grows over extensive areas—loves warm, dry localities—never ceases to grow—heart always green, though outside dried up—sugary taste perceptible—makes excellent beef—fattens

cattle more quickly than stall-feeding (if weather is good)—yearling steer has been known to weigh 600 lbs. dressed—full-grown 1200 lbs. and more, fed entirely on grass—six to eight weeks on bunch grass will make the leanest beasts of burden quite fat—horses leave grain to eat bunch-grass hay—bunch grass goes more to fat than milk, so is not best for dairy purposes.

Bunch grass is delicate—roots take slight hold of powdery soil—sheep crop it too closely—large flocks in a small area will kill the grass—horses and mules cut the roots with their hoofs—cattle injure the grass least, as their hoofs are cloven, and they do not bite closely. If bunch grass is destroyed, wild sage and absinthe usually appear; these are good cattle food, especially for winter. Sheep are very fond of black sage.

Here and there in this region are alkali spots, frequently alternating with alluvial patches, on the banks of rivers. An alkali spot is not considered a drawback to a cattle “run”—helps to fatten cattle—stranger cattle sometimes lick too much—swell and sicken to death—antidote is oil or fat—alkali spots should be avoided on dairy farms—alkali makes cows lose milk. Alkali is not found, however, to hinder the growth of cereals. When mellowed by cultivation, alkali land in British Columbia produces very fine beets. In Eastern Oregon, and in Idaho, alkali lands, mostly covered with sage brush, have proved well adapted to raising grain.

A Word to the intending Cattle Farmer.

In districts grazed by large bands of cattle it is well to have summer and winter ranges. The grass thus gets time to recover. The lower lands, such as terraces of valleys, make good winter ranges—wind blows snow away and leaves knolls, flats, and even great portions of the surface quite bare. Mountain ranges are cool in summer, and the cattle get some change of food by going to them, as altitude appears to change the quality of the grass. About 10 acres per head will feed a band of cattle throughout the year.

It is not uncommon for men to buy cattle with their wages, and let them run with their employers' herds. These cattle may be exempted from seizure for debt in certain cases, when the agreement to “farm” them is registered.

A man may begin cattle-farming with a band of 25 or 30, a yoke of draught oxen, neck-yoke, logging-chain, horse, saddle, axe, grindstone, and, of course, a supply of “grub.”

A beginning on a considerable scale might be made with the following stock:—

	Dollars.
50 cows (with calves) at 40 dollars	2000
30 heifers, at 30 dollars	900
20 yearlings, at 20 dollars	400
1 bull	75
	— 3375

Outgoings per annum would be (say)—

Labour, 3 men, 2 at 25 dollars	} = 100 dollars a month	1200
“ “ 1 “ 50 “		
Food for men		350
Rent of leased land		250
Material, &c.		300

Total 5475 (= £1095)

The increase of stock would begin at once, and be very rapid.

It would be well to have also pigs, as they forage largely for themselves, and pork is in demand in a mining community. Interest of money is not shown in the above. The owner's own labour should be thrown in to reduce the labour bill, and all money outgoings strictly watched. The farm should be as suitably placed as possible for markets. Its suitability is increased when it has good natural boundaries; also when wild hay grows on or near it, and when it has good outdoor shelter—springs that do not freeze up—dry sleeping grounds, few slippery spots or water sloughs where cattle may injure themselves or be drowned.

The cattle, if possible, should be those accustomed to the district or climate. Get an Indian to watch them, but help him yourself at first, particularly when other bands of cattle are passing the "run," or your young ones will stray—cattle take time to know one another and their "run."

Having secured his "run" and his stock, the "stock-raiser," as the cattle farmer is called, then chops trees and prepares the framework for his steading—hauls them to the place—fixes a day for neighbours to help to put up the framework—at his leisure, afterwards covers in the roof—makes windows—daubs gaps—next he has his "corral," or cattle-fold to make—think well about this—much depends on a good, well-placed "corral."

A word on winter food here also. It is common to say that no winter food for stock is necessary in the East Cascade Region. This is true to the following extent. Generally speaking, if the grass has been spared during summer, there is enough for winter food, and the cattle can find it on the ground. A good stock-raiser, with a suitable "run"—brush shelter in parts—may not have to feed his whole band once in ten years. But bad winters occasionally come—1862 was very bad, and so was 1872—and, therefore, it is said by experienced men, that a moderate supply, say $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton a head, that is, enough for six weeks' winter—should be provided and allowed to accumulate. Cattle may hurt themselves, or get sick. The stock-raiser should have the balance of chances in his favour. A good deal depends on the cattle. They will need little looking after, in summer or winter, if they are used to the climate and know the "run," the trails, springs, dry sleeping places, &c.*

Bunch grass as it grows, is made by the hot sun and dry atmosphere into the best standing hay; when irrigated it will yield alternate years 2 or 3 tons per acre of very fine hay; alkali-grass cut in season makes good hay; sower-grass, when newly grown after a fire, is prized by cattle; fire will improve the aftergrowth of even sedge-grass; pea-vine and red-top grass much liked—grow on moist, good soil, on high land generally (in West Cascade Region pea-vine seeks low land); pea-vine must be cut for hay early, or will go to powder; in case of extreme need reindeer-moss, willow-sprigs, cotton-wood, and even pine-tops will take cattle through a bad winter. The varied resources of such a country as British Columbia come out well by comparison. The winter of 1871-2 was the worst in America for forty years. The cattle in British Columbia came out in good condition in spring, though the farmers had not provided winter food as they might have done. In some of the Western States of the Union, the bodies of starved buffaloes and cattle lay along the railways in great numbers.

* Memorandum by W. H. Kay, Esq.

Newspaper Accounts.

A correspondent of the 'Standard,' a Victoria newspaper, writes of the southern portion of the East Cascade Region as follows:—"Having travelled twice through a large portion of the farming districts of British Columbia, I am very strongly impressed with the great advantages the country offers to any young man who may take unto himself a better half, and settle down in any of those lovely green valleys, and there grow his own pork and beans, with none to make him afraid while watching his chuckle-headed calves and big spotted steers bouncing over the hills. It is a fact that all the country which I am about to mention is covered with abundance of bunch-grass, pea-vine, and rye-grass, from 2 to 6 feet high. *It is a pity that people who are looking for peaceful and prosperous homes, such as our Government can offer, do not know more about the country.* Upon each side of the North and South Thompson Rivers, for miles above Kamloops Lake—45 miles from the trunk waggon-road—there are thousands of acres of good prairie-land, with plenty of timber for building and fencing purposes. Here all kinds of grain and vegetables can be raised simply by going to a little trouble in irrigating. This can be done by raising water from the river with a wind-mill attached to the top of a lofty fir-tree. There is quite strong enough wind every day in the year for the purpose. Here passes a good waggon-road leading from the trunk-road to what is known as the immense Okanagan country. My pen fails me to do justice to it as a farming and stock-raising country—plenty of fish in the lakes and rivers."

Another gentleman writing in 1872 to the 'British Colonist' (Victoria newspaper), after travelling by the coach from Cache Creek to Okanagan, says, "The country is for the most part open, dotted with trees, giving it almost the appearance of an old country park. It is so free from wood as to enable the horseman to canter at will in almost every direction, and in some instances no obstructions are presented to the free progress of a carriage. The face of the country is beautiful—relieved by ever changing succession of hill and dale. The water system is excellent, the surface of the country being indented by numerous lakes and rivers or smaller streams, everywhere teeming with fish of excellent quality. A mild climate will have already been inferred. It may be added that snow seldom falls to any depth, and never lies long. Horses, horned-cattle, and sheep pass the winter unhoused and uncared for, and, as a rule, come out in good condition in the spring. On most of the grass ranges cattle shifting for themselves through winter are in prime condition for beef in the spring. In the country thus roughly and very imperfectly sketched, there are a few hundred settlers—we really do not know how many. In the valleys of the Thompson, Okanagan, and Cache Creek, there are about one hundred children. There is the making of happy homes for tens of thousands. In truth no more desirable country can be found, and it is not unreasonable to hope that the opening of a coach-road leading through the heart of it, and the facilities for travel presented by a weekly line of stages, may lead persons in search of homes to go and see for themselves."

Healthiness for Cattle.

The healthiness of British Columbia has already been stated to be a great characteristic. I said, at page 13, that the climate was good for "beast" as

well as "man." I was not using rhetoric in so speaking, but had in mind the immense advantage of *healthy herds* to the province, and to the North American Continent. Glance over the world. Europe is alarmed at the spread of virulent epizootics. The Steppes of Russia are the seat of the rinderpest. Cattle bred there, and fattened in Hungary and elsewhere, are widely distributed over Europe. They reach London by rail and steam-boat. In addition to the terrible rinderpest, the English farmer also has the "foot-and-mouth disease" to contend with.

In the United States, the "Spanish Fever" or "Texas Cattle Disease" has been long known and dreaded by owners of herds in Missouri and Kansas, and to some extent in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. It became unusually serious in the track of Texas cattle beyond the Mississippi in 1867 and 1868. It broke out in Illinois in June, 1868. For a long time the Eastern States of the Union thought little of it, but when a new channel for the Texas cattle trade was opened, and the river steam-boats landed their living freight in the heart of the West, the ravages of the strange disease extended rapidly, carrying infection along the pathway of transportation to the seaboard, filling the public mind with alarm for the safety of farm stock, and even exciting apprehensions that the public health might become involved in the future progress of the disease.

I here again call attention to what I believe is a fact, namely, that British Columbia is probably the *healthiest country in the world—for man, for beast, for tree.*

Arable Farming in the East Cascade Region.

As might be expected in a mountainous country, the quantity of obviously attractive arable land is small, when compared with the whole area of the region. This is saying what might be said of Scotland, and other mountainous yet populous countries. The arable land in British Columbia is immense, compared with the present farming population. It is to be found principally in valleys of greater or less breadth bounded by hills. These valleys are so numerous that the total quantity of arable land mounts up to not a few acres. Every year shows us more land fit for tillage, and wherever the soil has been cultivated, it has been found highly productive. I have already said that irrigation is generally necessary in the East Cascade Region (see p. 57). Very good, some say the best, grass, and also in several places, excellent soil are on the high lands and even mountain tops. In these places you descend from crops and pastures among the clouds, to sterile-looking hills and benches.

Causes not yet quite understood seem to check here, in some degree, the ordinary effect of altitude upon farming. A good deal probably depends on aspect. The moist Pacific Ocean winds blowing inland above the surface winds may modify greatly the climate of the highlands. At all events the fact is, that any visitor to the province may see fine grass and good grain growing (of course with some risk) on Pavillon Mountain 4000 feet above the sea-level; excellent grain growing and harvested, also cabbages, carrots, turnips, and potatoes, elsewhere at 2700 feet; vegetables of all kinds and grain exuberantly at 2000 feet. Jack Frost, it is true, comes occasionally, and his vagaries are noticeable, for instance potatoes have been cut off at 1200 feet, in one part sooner than at 2400 feet in a not distant part of the same district. The

Chilcotin Plain or Plateau, averaging, it is said, 2000 to 2500 feet high, has been free from frost, when valleys in the *West Cascade* Region, very much lower, have had everything cut off. Another peculiarity is that low bottoms, in some places, are subject to night frosts, when the slopes that border them will be found to be free.

The farmer must leave behind him preconceived notions, and go to school again in some matters, with Dame Nature for his teacher. It is not an easy matter to select a farm where there are great differences of altitude within a few miles. We are, however, slowly learning more and more about the country. It improves the more we know of it.

The greater part of the southern portion of the East Cascade Region (say the portion between the Fraser and Columbia Rivers, and bounded on the north by the Horsefly District, and on the south by the American Boundary Line), is highly favoured, and has been *proved by practical farmers* to be in many places good under irrigation, for tillage, and in most places unequalled for grazing.

This region comprises the fine "Thompson country," so often referred to in the evidence before the English House of Commons Committee in 1857, upon the Hudson's Bay Company's affairs.

The comparative absence of trees, and greater dryness of the atmosphere, strike the traveller at once, who, from the West Cascade Region, enters this portion of the East Cascade Region. In the best parts of the latter, there are rolling hills and table-lands, sometimes stretching out for a great distance, diversified by green hillocks clothed above a certain height with trees, showing where moisture, descending as rain or snow, has been caught from the west winds. The whole tract is well watered, in the intervals between the hills by streamlets; in the level depressions by small lakes; while the groves and scattered trees afford a grateful shade by day, and a shelter by night.

Experience of Practical Farmers in East Cascade Region.

I will mention now, in a rough diary fashion, the portions of this region that have been tested by *practical farmers* (see Map).

Leaving the already described settlements of Sumass and Chilliwhack (see p. 52), the immigrant may go to Hope, and thence start eastward. *Nicolme* valley thickly timbered; *Sumallow* valley, superior land. On the *Skagit* the lands are described as beautiful and fertile, though shut in; mountains capped with snow; the narrow valleys covered with the "finest bunch-grass that man ever saw;" good bottom-land along the Skagit, and along the little winding streams flowing into it, "fringed with verdure." Before reaching *Princeton* (1650 feet above sea-level) country becomes more open; bunch-grass; firs at intervals; light soil; good pasture; little arable land; a pastoral and mining district; hot in summer; sharp cold in winter; little snow on the general surface, but occasionally quite deep on the mountains between Princeton and Hope; periodically a severe winter; 1872 was one.

The entire country for 160 miles along the trail from Princeton, past Osoyoos, Rock Creek, and to the great prairie at the bend of Kettle River, is almost free from timber, and abounds in food for cattle; game abundant; delightful "camping out" weather, generally, almost up to November; gold indications everywhere. A trail somewhat over forty miles in length, branches

off two miles below Princeton to the Okanagan Lake. There are many spots between the Similkameen Valley and Okanagan, *specially* favourable for farming. On some of these the snow never lies, however much may be around.

Similkameen Valley.

This valley extends fifty-five miles from Princeton to the frontier (see Map). Mountains bordering the river are granite, greenstone, and quartz, capped with blue and brown clay slate; clay of slaty texture stained with iron; small quantities of blue clay; bed of river filled with boulders of granite, greenstone, and trap of all sizes; fordable except during freshets, and then it rises very rapidly; grass very good; timber scarce; sharp bends of river generally well wooded; underbrush of willow and wild cherry; near base of mountains sufficient timber for settlers; soil somewhat sandy and light; free from stones, and generally excellent for either grazing or farming; dry in summer; irrigation necessary; many large portions already well watered by streams from the mountains, with fall sufficient to facilitate any further irrigation found necessary; grass most luxuriant, also, on the little tributary streams. Valley very picturesque. "Similkameen beef" is talked of as Englishmen talk of "Southdown mutton." A settler introduced a Durham bull in 1872, which cost him 1000 dollars (200*l.* English): another wrote lately, "We have a good mining and good farming district and one of the best stock-ranges on the Pacific coast: numbers of cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs. The Indians go into farming; quite quiet; keep cats."

It is unfortunate that this fine Similkameen district has not an easier western outlet in the direction of the New Westminster district, but such an outlet possibly may yet be found. (See Mr. Fannin's report in Appendix.)

Osoyoos Lake.

Close to the boundary line—connected with Okanagan Lake by a chain of lakes and rivers. Open land between Osoyoos and Boundary Creek (see Map). Famous Rock Creek diggings were in this neighbourhood, and no doubt all this country will be again worked by miners. Good cattle-grazing country; last Reports before me dated autumn, 1872; grain and all kinds of vegetation looking splendid, and cattle in fine condition. One settler had 200 fat steers to sell. A hurricane on the lake; broke a bridge; dismantled haystacks. Mosquitoes troublesome. Trade with Indians good; they seemed to have plenty of money.

With the exception of a few miles, the entire road from Rock Creek to the great prairie at the head of Kettle River is, as already said, through a fine rolling prairie country, thinly wooded, and abounding in bunch grass. Gold and Selkirk ranges then intervene. Fort Shepherd is a wild barren spot—rough trail thence over the "divide" between Columbia and Kootenay rivers to the Kootenay Valley (south from Kootenay Lake); river broad and sluggish; portion of valley quite level; rich alluvial soil as on Pitt River (New Westminster district); overflowed probably; swamp grass; rich vegetation; going still east up the Mooyie River to the lake, there is thick timber—Purcell range intervenes—beyond this range country opens out; thirty or forty miles farther, the traveller reaches the Kootenay again; grand scenery approaching the Rocky Mountains.

Kootenay.

In the arid south-east angle of the province among the flanking ridges of the Rocky range; a well-known and promising mining region (see "Mines").

Farming land—principally on alluvial bottoms—lies along Kootenay River and the head waters of the Columbia, say for about 200 miles long and 5 miles wide; good grass; timber and water privileges; heat and cold rather extreme (for British Columbia)—November 14th, 1872, six inches snow on the ground—November 19th, 1874, one foot snow; facilities for irrigation favourable; capabilities of the soil are becoming known after trial.

Wild Horse Creek—fine dairy farm—good stock, grain, and vegetables.

Joseph's Prairie—the same—Columbia lakes the same. At the Columbia, a fine farm of 5000 acres, rented for grazing; believed to be good arable—along the streams flowing by the side of mountains crowned with perpetual snow in this district, almost all kinds of vegetables can be grown; quality excellent, particularly the potatoes. Every Chinaman has a vegetable patch. What is produced finds ready sale in the mining camps. Cattle at present in this district: 1200 head of stock and beef; 155 cows; 5 bullocks used every week; resident white men, 85; Chinamen, 200 (own 25 cows); Indians, 300 (own 30 cows); people generally orderly and contented; hopeful as regards their future; a number of persons taking up land for settlement; a water-power sawmill in course of construction. The Kootenay, Osoyoos, and Similkameen settlers sent lately $23\frac{1}{2}$ dollars to the Royal Columbia Hospital at New Westminster.

Much trade done at present between Kootenay and the American town of Walla Walla (408 miles from Wild Horse Creek). Pack trains came in also from Montana Territory. Wages in Kootenay 3 to 5 dollars (12s. to 20s. English) per day: prices as follows:—Flour in 1874, 7 cents ($3\frac{1}{2}d.$ English) per lb.; beef on the block, 8 to 10 cents ($4d.$ to $5d.$ English) per lb.; sugar, 25 cents (1s. $0\frac{1}{2}d.$ English); tea, $1\frac{1}{2}$ dollar (6s. English) per lb.; bacon and hams, 40 to 50 cents (1s. $8d.$ to 2s. English) per lb.; potatoes, cabbages, turnips, 4 to 6 cents ($2d.$ to $3d.$ English) per lb.; beans, 33 cents (1s. $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ English) per lb.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oregon considers that the country about the sources of the Columbia River is of great prospective importance. It is divided into forest and prairie in proportions favourable for settlement; mining resources undoubted; birch, pine, "cedar and cypress" prevail; climate delightful; snow goes generally as it falls; a most desirable country, needing people only and road communications. Stock-owners now drive cattle to winter in neighbourhood of Columbia River lakes—will by-and-by be reached from the north, probably more easily than by the road from Hope which I have described.

Many prefer the climate of this section to the climate even at Victoria, Vancouver Island.

A Question put here to the Reader.

Before going further, I ask the reader whether this is a country to repel a settler from, looking merely to the strip of the province already described, namely, Vancouver Island, New Westminster District, and the country south of a line from Hope to the Eastern Boundary Line?

The weird, uncommon, gigantic features of the country, the grand scale on which its scenery and natural products are presented to the eye, make men at first feel dwarfed, discouraged; but there are great sources of national wealth in a territory with such a situation, with such harbours, climate, soil, and minerals. Much has to be overcome, but the future is certain.

Okanagan Country.

Very fine stock country, and will also produce grain; yields fall-wheat only without irrigation; spring wheat $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre, with irrigation; also profusely oats, barley, Indian corn, potatoes, tomatoes, musk-melons, water-melons, [grapevine, tobacco. Summer warm, has shown 98° in the shade; cold is sharp in winter, but weather clear and sunny, snow seldom deep, and never lies long; cattle, horses, and sheep, as a rule, unhoused in winter; moderate preparation, however, recommended.

The lake, 70 miles long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide: country to the east of it a fair sample of the best districts between Rocky and Cascade Ranges; open, grassy hills, dotted with trees like English parks, successive hills and dales; lakes, ponds, and streams full of fish; soil much the same general character as the Similkameen; rich sandy loam, substratum of clay in some valleys; stretches of "bottom" land; some alkali patches; settlers coming in fast and taking up land since Canadian Pacific Railway survey began. Those who would have "sold out" a year ago are now tilling and improving their land. It is said that in Okanagan and adjoining districts, there is room for a farming population of 10,000 souls (allowing 160 acres for nine persons). Roman Catholic mission-post (1100 feet above sea-level) on the east side of the lake; fine country behind it. On the west side of the lake, a little distance back, runs a low mountain range, from which detached spurs press upon the lake, and rise above the water in precipitous bluffs; excellent pasture, particularly on small spits jutting into the lake. The Cherry Creek Silver Mine has been abandoned for the present.

Near the north end of the lake is an Indian reserve of very choice land.

Kamloops-Shuswap District.

Let us enter the district from the east. Columbia River is 44 miles from Shuswap Lake, viâ Eagle Pass. Three Valley Lake (altitude 1912 feet) is about 34 miles from Shuswap Lake. Directly south from Three Valley Lake is a long, wide, grassy valley, which leads across a low "divide" to the headwaters of the Shuswap or Spillemeechene River. This is a gentle river flowing through a large valley, much of which has clay subsoil; fine fall-wheat without irrigation; very good and heavy crops here; only about half-a-dozen energetic settlers; large farm-buildings; well fenced fields; Indians at work on farms; fine bunch-grass on the high land, round which the river makes a southern bend.

A farmer on the Shuswap Prairie thrashed out 80 tons of wheat in 1872; two other farmers 40 tons each. Prices here of very superior extra flour, 12 dollars (48s. English) per barrel of 196 lbs.; choice bacon, 25 cents (1s. $0\frac{1}{2}$ d. English) per lb.; juicy beef 10 cents (5d. English) per lb.

Leaving the Shuswap or Spillemeechene River at a point, say beyond

where Cherry Creek joins it, there is between that point and the head of the Okanagan Lake a district of open prairie and sparsely timbered land, abounding in rich pasturage and dotted with a few farming settlements.

From the head of Okanagan Lake to the Thompson River (south branch) is about 45 miles north-west. Leaving the open, rolling, bunch-grass valleys of Okanagan, you first ascend for about 20 miles through timber land; reach Grand Prairie—fine soil, luxuriant bunch-grass, dotted with cattle; the prairie 16 miles by 2 miles, bounded by hills; a river between; elevation (1450 feet) causes some danger from night frost. Grand Prairie to Thompson River—glittering stream through valley, bordered by alders and willows, green meadows, clumps of trees, small lakes; good soil ready for cultivation.

From the nearest point at which you strike the South Thompson River down to its meeting (forks) with its north branch is 16 miles of open grass country. At the junction stands Kamloops, a few miles from the head of Kamloops Lake—25 miles long—(see Map); rolling prairie land, with fine grass, and also some fertile valleys on southern bank of lake.

There is an open, or lightly timbered bunch-grass country along the banks of the North Thompson River, and north of Kamloops Lake, for 130 miles.

Several English gentlemen from the American side have taken a prairie of 2000 acres on the North Thompson, a short distance from Kamloops, and are making a long ditch for irrigation.

In 1871 the yield of grain on the Tranquille and north and south branches of the Thompson River was a million and a quarter pounds.

The whole Kamloops-Shuswap district is a district of table-land, with considerable depressions—abundant pasture, generally free from forests, and only interspersed with timber; summer climate dry, great heat; winter frequently very cold for a day or two, but on the whole not very sharp; snow generally lies a short time only; cattle are driven here to winter in severe seasons; Hudson's Bay Company used to "winter out" 500 horses here, including brood mares and young horses. This district will doubtless become known again as a mineral district. The first gold found in quantity by the natives was found in this district, and fair wages are still made on the Thompson River. The Thompson, near its mouth, is too full, rapid, and rocky for mining.

Kamloops itself is likely to be a distributing centre for the fine country around it, even if the Canadian Pacific Railway does not come to help the infant city; schools, visiting clergymen, three fine stores already, three hotels, two blacksmiths' shops, &c. Hudson's Bay Company building a store (60 by 40 feet), and going to keep more goods than hitherto; sawmill 20 miles up the north branch of the Thompson; good grist-mill, generally busy, on the Tranquille (flows from north into Kamloops Lake); the Tranquille Mill grinds a good deal for the North and South Thompson districts, and also portion of the Okanagan country. In 1872 wheat was sold for 2 to 2½ cents per lb. (1d. to 1½d. English), delivered to merchants at Kamloops or to the Tranquille Mill. The higher price was towards the end of the year, and arose partly from the requirements of the Canadian Railway survey.

Nicola Country.

Directly south from Kamloops, 30 miles, is Nicola Lake (see Map). The road at present from Kamloops is a sort of natural trail over gently undu-

lating but high open country, with fine grass. First few miles no herbage; many ravines. At the first height turn and survey the magnificent scenery of the Thompson River valleys; will give some idea of the grazing resources of the province. Can bring a waggon with light load across from Kamloops to Nicola Lake, if you take a guide, an axe, and a spade.

Nicola Lake is reached also from Lytton, which is on the trunk waggon-road (see Map). The post comes in from Lytton.

The road in this direction will doubtless be improved. At present, going from Lytton to Nicola Lake, you first skirt and look down on Thompson River.

Eleven miles on, at a break in valley, is a waterfall; diverge; steep mountain-trail 12 miles; strike Nicola River, whence 40 miles to the lake. First part of river unattractive; wild sage bushes; hot sand in summer; rattlesnakes (some say). River winds through masses of alder and willow; by-and-by plains dotted with pines; fine land; a few settlers. Rich sheltered bottoms, where the peach, castor-oil plant, sweet almond, will grow, and fine meadow-grass, grain, and root-crops; grassy hills, good for cows. Provincial Exhibition prize for cheese came to this district. Irrigate from river water; land in valley heavy black loam; no stones nor gravel near surface; "red pine" on the mountains. Coal, it is said, has been found in the Nicola district.

Nicola Lake, thus reached either from Lytton or Kamloops, is in a fine district; climate dry and warm in summer; warm rains April and May, and again August and September. Have to irrigate; can grow finest wheat, oats, barley, broom corn, and vegetables—one experienced settler says better produce than in "Vancouver Island or Oregon;" tobacco, tomatoes, and melons mature well. Winters mild; two months cold clear weather, with snow. South winds melt snow and leave ground bare for weeks. Thirty-six settlers—seven ladies—two wives coming from Scotland. Round the lake open prairie; bunch grass. Year-old steer of 600 lbs. (dressed). Seldom have to feed cattle on hay. On 2nd March, 1872, after a bad winter, cattle fat; grass green on hill-sides, spring birds and wild ducks back to their haunts. Good land round the lake occupied, but room in the neighbourhood. Milk cows scarce; a few gentle cows for sale at 65 to 75 dollars (13*l.* to 15*l.* English); plenty of cattle, but young breeding stock dear. Beautiful sheep-farm a mile from lake; level plain, river on one side; sloping heights to the north, running parallel to the river. About 2000 sheep; do well.

A correspondent, "Observer," in the 'British Colonist,' Victoria, of 28th November, 1871, says:—"I predict a prosperous future to all who obtain a footing in this most delightful valley. . . . It is a fact that all kinds of animals will "not only thrive by what they can procure for themselves, but will keep fat, "so great is the quantity of vegetation and so moderate the climate."

East side of Nicola Lake, up river 10 miles, fine valley; home for fifty families, at least. Open prairie along the river; very good land, easily irrigated; timber scarce, except close to river; "pine" on mountains seven or eight miles back. As far as the eye can see, a beautiful prairie of grass.

Hope, Yale, and Lytton.

Hope, 95 miles from mouth of Fraser River, was formerly an active little place, but the gold-bearing Similkameen country, to the east, having been

neglected, owing to the greater attractions of Cariboo, Hope has not thriven as was expected, though it again shows signs of life. The silver mines (which are likely to be worked near Hope) will tend to increase its importance, which, prospectively, must always be considerable, as Hope is the natural outlet to the Fraser River from the fine farming and mining country of the Similkameen.

Yale, the head of navigation on Fraser River, 110 miles from its mouth, is a most picturesque and thriving little town, situated in a narrow gorge of striking grandeur. Large quantities of goods and not a few passengers pass through it daily, in the summer, to the upper country. The Fraser River "bars," near this town, yielded a large quantity of gold in 1858, and have since been re-worked to advantage.

Forty-three miles above Yale the aspect of the country completely changes. The underbrush and cedars are left behind; there is much less moss upon the trees; shrubs begin to appear which belong to a drier climate. Here also begin the peculiar "benches" or terraces which mark the course of the Fraser River and its tributaries (see page 10). On one of these flats, 200 feet above the stream, is the town of *Lytton*, named after Lord Lytton. Lytton is situated at the junction of the Thompson with the Fraser, 43 miles below Lillooet and 57 miles above Yale. It is a pretty town, already something more than a wayside town. The population is increasing, owing to mines and farms in its neighbourhood. The wheat ground at the Lytton mill makes very fine flour. There is a good market for all produce. In the upper part of the town there are a school, two butcher-shops, two hotels, two livery-stables, three shops two bakers, a sawmill, blacksmith, and shoemaker. In the lower part of the town, which is chiefly inhabited by Chinese, there are four bakers, five shops, four restaurants.

Lillooet-Clinton District.

Including CACHE CREEK, BONAPARTE, also WILLIAMS LAKE, and up to QUESNEL MOUTH.

The whole district is a very fine one, and at present shows what can be done by applying capital to the soil. It is farther to the north and generally more elevated than some sections already described. The risk to crops from summer night frosts may be said to be very considerable in the entire country on the waggon-road north of Pavillon Mountain, unless farms have a south aspect or are protected from north blasts. The remark applies, of course, more particularly to farms further north than Alexandria.

It is safe to have some winter provision for stock in much of the country through which the trunk-waggon road from Yale runs. The effect, however, of the above danger is merely to add somewhat to the amount of capital required in agriculture. Farming in this district is the direct child of the Cariboo mining region, and farmers with a market at their doors (which for some articles the waggon-road gives them), can afford risks that are not excessive. That the risks under the circumstances are not considered excessive is proved by the extension of farming every year in the district by men of capital. The extent to which this will take place will depend on the continued success of the Cariboo mines, or other mines that can be conveniently supplied from this district.

The surface in so large a section of country is, of course, varied. It embraces within its area fertile river-benches (terraces), table-lands, large open valleys, immense plains, and green rolling hills.

The country near the Thompson, Bonaparte, and Hat rivers is very attractive to the eye; miles of green hills, crowning slopes, and level meadows; hardly a bush or tree; fine grass almost to the hill-tops. The climate very healthful and enjoyable; rather a want of timber in parts, also of rain generally, but there are many streams.

For grazing, the country cannot be surpassed, and its agricultural capabilities, so far as the soil is concerned, are in many parts very good. At Cache Creek and on the Bonaparte there is excellent arable land. The country through which the waggon-road passes to Williams Lake has some very good soil, with no more timber than is needed for farming purposes. The farming land is bounded by low hills, beyond which there are prairies and valleys. These hills are undulating and brightly green, and their grassy carpet is daisied over with countless wild flowers.

The road occasionally crosses some fresh mountain-stream, whose cool clear waters invite the traveller to drink; now it winds by the bank of a lovely lake, in whose glassy depths the trees and shrubs along the margin seem to contemplate their own symmetry and face. The summer frosts, however, as above said, are rather against crop-farming in this section, except on farms favourably situated; but the frosts do not come regularly, nor with equal severity.

The great trunk-waggon road of the province goes through the district, and the farmers produce food for horses and mules largely, in addition to the flour, bacon, &c., required for the mining towns in Cariboo. The visitor here sees irrigation-flumes (water-courses) of great length, gang-ploughs, and thrashing-machines; also several saw-mills, bacon and ham factories, and three flour-mills, which latter cost 60,000 dollars (12,000*l.* English). The farmers themselves, to start one flour-mill, subscribed 8000 dollars (1600*l.* English). There is a Farmers' Society at Clinton—the Northern British Columbia Agricultural Society. I believe there are in the Lillooet district about 12,000 horned cattle, 5000 sheep, 4000 pigs, and 400 horses. The average annual yield for the last five years has been about three million and a half pounds of wheat, with a large yield of other cereals, and beans, peas, onions, potatoes, &c. The above is not much to speak of; but it must be remembered that the supply has been limited by the demand. These farming facts conclusively show the agricultural capabilities of the province, even in a section of it which in parts is liable to occasional summer frosts. Let but mining towns grow, or let a railway be made (as it will be soon) to carry surplus produce to a shipping port, and it will be seen that the agricultural capabilities of even the northern portion of the East Cascade region of British Columbia are very great.

I give in the Appendix abridged extracts from newspaper correspondence from this section during a whole year.

What has been described in the foregoing.

I have now described all the portions of British Columbia which have been tested up to this time by practical farmers.

Chilcotin, &c.

This is the country on either side of the river of that name (see Map). It is bounded on the west side by the Range, called by some the "Cascade" and by others the "Coast" range (see page 47) and on the east by Fraser River. Chilcotin has not yet been thoroughly tested by farmers, but the country is attracting attention.

We have different accounts of it from travellers. The probability is that a good deal of the Chilcotin country is arid and sandy, with poor timber.

Its area, however, is immense, and may include also great tracts of good grazing land. Near its numerous rivers and lakes we might expect to find superior arable land. The surface is open in parts, and timbered in others, generally presenting either rolling prairies or forest table-lands. There are many lakes and rivers, and a great valley through which the Chilcotin flows. The average elevation of the district is considerable, say 2500 feet; but the altitude of the surface varies considerably. I have already stated that the highest point of the trail, from Bentinck arm, is 3500 to 4000 feet high. From that summit on the plateau, looking west, you see the Cascade Range; to the south, lonely massive heights; to the east, an expanse of forest, broken by lakes and marshes. Reindeer are numerous on the great mountain plateau near the head of the Chilcotin River.

Soil probably light on the high land, and rich near some of the rivers and lakes.

Climate hot in summer, and very sharp in winter; the slopes opposite depressions in the Cascade Range, probably will be found the most suitable for crops, as far as climate is concerned.

Another large section of the province, east of the Cascade Range, is not much known yet, namely, the section extending to a great distance north and west from the elbow which the Fraser River makes to get round the Cariboo Mountains. Some part of this country has been described in my account of the Nasse-Skena district. (See West Cascade Region.)

Hudson's Bay Company officers describe this northern region as a hunting and mining region, containing, however, large tracts of good pasture; probably a good deal of winter fodder for cattle would be required here.

Wheat has been raised at Fort George (but was liable to night frost nips); barley and vegetables at Fraser's Lake; potatoes on the lake slopes at Stewart's Lake (the hollows are liable to night frost). Humming-bird common at Stewart's Lake in summer.

A fine country is also spoken of as existing "between Fort St. James and Nation River;" good land also between Babine and the "forks" of the Skena. On the whole, though much of the above section of the country north and west from the great elbow of the Fraser is known to be mountainous and swampy, it probably is as habitable as some inhabited countries of Northern Europe.

Under the stimulus of a demand for stock or produce, such as mining-camps would produce, the district doubtless would show considerable even farming results.

Markets.

A word or two will explain the existing provincial markets for farm produce. Victoria and Cariboo are the chief markets at present for surplus

stock or produce not wanted in the farmers' own locality. A farming emigrant must consider this in choosing his "location."

The Island District, also New Westminster District (after the latter has supplied the town of New Westminster, and to some extent the towns of Hope and Yale), also the Similkameen District, may be said to look largely to the Victoria market. Okanagan, Nicola, and Lillooet settlers would look partly to the Victoria market as an outlet for stock, but the roads have until lately hardly enabled them to reach it.

Osoyoos and Kootenay consume most of their own produce at present.

It is said that Victoria imports butter from the eastern provinces of Canada, and buys 15,000*l.* worth of beef-cattle every year from the American territory opposite to Vancouver Island, but this import of meat supplies should diminish with the improvement of roads in the province enabling the provincial farmers to supply their own markets.

Settlers in all other parts of the country than those named above, depend mainly for markets on the gold-mining localities of Cariboo, Kootenay, Cassiar, &c. The consuming power of a mining-camp of hard-working gold-miners, is probably equal at least to that of a town with four or five times the number of inhabitants, composed of both sexes, and young and old.

The settler will see on the map the position of these chief consuming centres namely, Victoria and Cariboo.

In choosing his "location" the settler further will look to the future. He will consider where it is reasonably likely that gold, coal, or silver mining land may be discovered, or where any other industry, such as cattle or sheep farming, or fishing, or saw-milling is likely to concentrate population.

For instance, think of the industries and occupations radiating from Cariboo—the mining heart of the mainland—consider the unsupplied demand for beef, butter, &c., in commercial Victoria, or reflect upon what King Coal has done at Nanaimo. A single coal-mine in full work appears to be worth an addition of at least 1500 to the population, probably more, if one considers the workmen and their families, the trades they support, the visitors in vessels, the farming districts which supply the mining neighbourhood with meat and vegetables. If the other coal mines now being opened on the east coast of the island begin work vigorously, and a demand continues for the fine sandstone from the Newcastle Quarry, the east coast island farmers will have a home market for whatever they produce, increasing beyond their power to supply it, and Victoria must continue to look to the New Westminster district, or elsewhere, for her requirements. In the latter district, however, we find already a considerable town, flourishing saw-mills, and promising fisheries. If, additionally, the silver mines near Hope should be worked, the New Westminster district farmers themselves will have a home demand which they may not be able fully to supply. These probabilities show to the emigrant the advantages of settling in a mineral country, and particularly in a country with such varied mineral and other resources as British Columbia. So far as the first settlers are concerned, the comparative scarceness of attractive accessible tillage land is in their favour, for the land will be high-priced in course of time, in proportion to its scarcity.

Particularly at this time, the settler, in choosing a "location," must have regard to the effect of the making of the Canadian Pacific Railway through

the province. The local demand for farm produce in British Columbia will be largely increased at the places where the work of making the railway is actively progressing, and the opening of the line will provide new outlets for farm produce generally.

If more farms are not started in British Columbia, the demand created by the making of the railway will benefit Oregon and California, instead of British Columbia. The temporary presence of the Canadian Railway surveyors in 1872 raised wheat one-fourth of a cent a pound in the Kamloops-Shuswap district.

There is no reason why the markets of China and England should not be used for the surplus grain of British Columbia, as soon as the farming population is increased in number, and systematic works of irrigation and reclamation aid and enable them to produce a surplus.

As regards cattle, it will be some time before the cattle-farmer will have to look for markets outside the province. I may point out, however, that when the Canadian Pacific Railway is finished, British Columbia will be to England the nearest extensive grazing country, capable of rearing great herds of cattle chiefly on natural grasses. Central Canada will not be able to compete in cattle rearing with her more western sister territory, owing to the long keen winter and want of shelter. Central Canada for wheat; British Columbia for beef and mutton. British Columbia will be nearer to England than the River Plate or Texas, and is a finer and healthier grazing country than either. (See p. 62.)

Canadian Pacific Railway.

The only completed railway across the continent of North America is the Union and the Central Pacific, which connect Omaha with San Francisco (both these places are in the United States); but several other lines are projected. The principal one of these is the Canadian Pacific, through British territory, which has been commenced in 1875. This railway will connect the present railway system of Canada with a seaport in British Columbia on the shore of the Pacific Ocean. It will bring British Columbia within about a fortnight's travel from England. The Canadian Pacific railway line has extraordinary advantages over all other existing or proposed trans-continental railways in shortness, and in conditions of climate and description of country to be traversed. Under proper management it cannot fail to be a sound investment, while opening the brightest future to British Columbia, to the Dominion of Canada, and to the Empire.

The Canadian line will shorten the passage between Liverpool and China, in direct distance, more than 1000 miles. The sea-trips from its ends on both oceans will be much shorter than from the ends of the existing American line. The North American Continent also can be spanned by a much shorter line on Canadian soil than by the existing railway through the United States.

The distance from New York to San Francisco by the Union Pacific Railway is 3363 miles; but from Montreal to New Westminster it is only 2730, or 636 miles in favour of the Canadian line. The distance by the Canadian Pacific from New Westminster, British Columbia, to New York (by St. Lawrence and Ottawa, Ogdensburg and Rome, and New York Central) is 305 miles shorter than from San Francisco to New York (by the Union

Pacific, Michigan Central, and New York Central). To Boston, the difference in favour of the Canadian inter-oceanic route is 335 miles. To Portland, the difference in favour of the Canadian route is 521 miles.

There can be little doubt that Europe, and particularly England, will derive vast benefit from the extended cultivation of the rich lands through which the Canadian Pacific Railway will pass. These lands, it is quite well known, contain the best unoccupied wheat-growing tracts in North America, and are very extensive. *The comparative lowness of the surface makes the climate on the Canadian route, though farther to the north, less severe than the climate on the existing railway in the United States.*

The Government of the Dominion of Canada was bound by the terms of union with British Columbia to begin the construction of this line within British Columbia before July, 1873, and to complete it before ten years, so as to connect the Pacific seaboard with the Eastern Canada railway system. Some delay occurred, but the Dominion Government have lately set to work in earnest. The railway is begun and its construction will be pushed on.

More direct railway communication with Eastern Canada will supply the great want under which the province has laboured; but long before the line shall have been completed British Columbia will have derived benefits of the most substantial character from the work of construction alone, and the Canadian Pacific Railway will prove in many ways one of the most active and efficient agencies in adding to the population of the province.

Mining, generally.*

A large proportion of the population is engaged in mining for gold, coal, and silver. Iron, copper, lead, and almost every other mineral, including rare minerals, such as molybdenum, &c., are found; also lime, marble, freestone, slate, &c. The whole country, in fact, is full of minerals and building material of a high character. Gold-mining is, at present, the largest wage-affording industry; coal comes next; silver promises well. The best known gold and silver fields are on the mainland; the largest known good coalfield is in Vancouver Island.

The laws relating to mining generally are designed to be liberal and encouraging.

The country is difficult to traverse, and the search for minerals has been conducted hitherto by extraordinary efforts on the part of individuals and small companies. The Dominion Geological Survey, now in progress, will furnish information that will enable "prospectors" to search with better judgment and happier results. Every one believes that fresh discoveries must follow the beginning of the works of construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which will run through the province.

The intending settler will know how to estimate the importance of settling in a mineral country. The interests of all classes are common, and whatever adds to the number of consumers specially benefits the farming settler, whether these settlers are engaged in mining, trading, or any other occupation.

In a great undeveloped mining country, or a country in which extensive railway works are undertaken, the farming interest should always be in

* Under this and other heads, I am indebted for information to the Honourable C. Good's memorandum.

advance of actual needs, otherwise any additional demand created by new mines, or by vigorous prosecution of wage-paying work of any sort, could not be met, and, as a consequence, the benefit would go out of the country to help any other country that could supply the demand.

Gold Mining.

It will not be expected that, in this handbook, I should give an account of the numerous regulations respecting so special an industry as gold-mining.

The mining camps of British Columbia are as orderly as English villages. Gold claims are taken up anywhere on payment of 5 dollars (20s. English) per annum. A 25-dollar (5*l.* English) licence secures a miner in his rights. No further tax is levied. The nature and size of British Columbia gold claims are as follows:—

For “Bar diggings,” a strip of land, 100 feet wide at high-water mark, and thence extending into the river to its lowest water-level.

For “Dry diggings,” 100 feet square.

“Creek claims,” 100 feet long, measured in the direction of the general course of the stream, and extending in width from base to base of the hill on each side.

“Bench claims,” 100 feet square.

“Quartz claims,” 150 feet in length, measured along the lode or vein, with power to follow the lode or vein, and its spurs, dips, and angles, anywhere on or below the surface included between the two extremities of such length of 150 feet.

When a creek has “prospected” well for gold, it is usual for miners to form themselves into companies of from four to eight, or upwards, to take up their claims in proximity to one another, and to work the whole ground thus claimed for the benefit of the company. If rich “pay-dirt” be struck, and the mine be in a sufficiently advanced state, companies, anxious to obtain the greatest possible quantity of gold in the shortest possible space of time, will frequently employ additional working-hands, and work during the whole 24 hours.

These hired men often get high wages. Usual wages at Cariboo are as follows:—

Carpenter	..	..	7 dollars (28s. English) per day.
Foreman	..	..	6 “ (24s. “) “
Workman	..	..	5 “ (20s. “) “
Chinaman	..	..	3½ “ (14s. “) “

The reader will remember that the mining season does not last the whole year.

The gold-bearing districts extend over several thousand miles of country (see Map). Indications of gold are also found generally in Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands; but very good paying diggings have not yet been found there.

Within twelve years nearly five millions sterling worth of gold have been exported, and unless common and scientific opinion is entirely wrong, the gold-fields of the province have hardly yet been touched. In various spots, discovered by chance, gold-miners have collected. These spots, generally, have been so remote, that the necessities of life have been very dear; and in

consequence, diggings that yielded 3 to 5 dollars (12s. to 20s. English) per day, have not been considered attractive.

The conditions of gold-mining, however, have changed of late years in several important respects. The steady improvement of communications and the growth of farming settlements in the interior have reduced the price of necessities at the diggings. The miners themselves have long ago given up fancy-mining, and come down to economy and hard work. It would be too much to say that the shallow diggings in British Columbia are worked out as those of California and Australia have long been, but it is true that in several important gold-fields the *more easily worked places* have been exhausted.

This is a very different thing from the exhaustion of the gold-fields. It is simply saying that in those particular places in British Columbia, a stage has been reached which was reached long ago in California and Australia.

The deep channels and beds of streams must now be examined, and are being examined. The era of real "gold-digging" is about to follow the era of mere "gold-lifting." A different kind of mining is being adopted—deep mining, with more machinery, and consequently larger expense.

Cariboo.

The last Cariboo season was not so good for the mass of miners as many previous ones; but most vigorous "prospecting" of deep channels is being carried on in the various creeks, and sufficient success has been met with to justify the confidence in Cariboo which is generally felt. Cariboo will for many years be among the best paying diggings on the Pacific coast.

Kootenay.

The miners in the south-eastern angle of the province, on the Kootenay and Columbia rivers, are making good wages, and are pleased with their prospects. The hydraulic claims there will last for years yet. The miners show great activity in examining the undoubtedly gold-bearing country in their immediate neighbourhood, and also at the head waters of the Kootenay and Columbia. The prospecting parties out in 1874, aided by the Government appropriation, have done well. Good "prospects" were got on Quartz Creek which opens into the Columbia River, 200 miles N.W. of Wild Horse Creek; also on the Slocan River, and above the mouth of the Kootenay River. Samples of gold and silver quartz were brought in. The mining season in this part of the province is longer than in Cariboo.

Omineca.

Omineca, in the far north of the province, has not yet proved to be a high-paying gold-field. The gold is distributed; in 1873 probably each miner made about 8 dollars (32s. English) per day during the season. The country is vast, and not much prospected. Omineca is kept back at present by the high cost of labour and supplies, like many other gold-yielding places in British Columbia.

The above are gold-fields which were expected to be, or are, high-paying diggings. The immigrant will understand, however, that gold is found almost

everywhere, and that numbers of Chinese and Indians are mining in all parts of the province, and are making from 1 to 5 dollars (4s. to 20s. English) per day.

At this stage of the world's history homilies are not wanted upon the risks of gold-mining in this quarter of the globe, or, indeed, elsewhere. In British Columbia the work is hard, the season is short in the northern parts of the province, the returns from the occupation are uncertain. But it must have many compensating advantages, or it would not be so attractive. One thing may be said, namely, that a gold-miner has a steady market for his produce; he has never to wait for a market for his gold, nor is it much affected by competition or over-production.

The point for the settler to note is that it is an *immense advantage to a settler to be in a mineral country*, because the mines give work to those able to undertake it, and create local markets, which otherwise might not exist for generations.

I do not think that any man living will see the exhaustion of the precious mineral deposits of British Columbia. The history of the older mining country of California shows partly what may be expected in British Columbia.

Cassiar.

In addition to the above gold-fields, rich diggings have recently been discovered at Cassiar. The district of Cassiar, although more distant from the capital than the other gold regions, is really more accessible than any of them, as the journey involves very little land travel. The route from Victoria is by coasting steamers to Fort Wrangel at the mouth of the Stickeen River, thence up the river to Buck's Bar by light-draught steamboats, the remainder of the journey, about 85 miles, being by a trail. The principal diggings are at present on Dease's and Thibert's Creeks, and are for the most part shallow or placer diggings. A large number of miners worked there during the summer of 1874, with, as usual in gold-mining, very varied success. The general result, however, of the season's work was highly satisfactory. Cassiar is likely to prove one of the most important gold-fields of British Columbia.

Californian Experience.

The exhaustion of the easier diggings in California has had the effect of creating new plans of management and new appliances and methods of working; and so will it be year after year in British Columbia. In California, at the present time, many small claims are thrown together, so as to be worked on a grand scale under a single business administration. Long bed rock-tunnels are made to secure outlet and drainage to deep and extensive basins of gold-bearing gravel, covering often many individual claims, none of which could otherwise have been worked. Various other labour- and money-saving expedients have been adopted to aid the effect of this co-operation of labour and consolidation of interests. Not the least remarkable fact in California is, that *new kinds of mineral deposits* have been discovered, additionally to the ordinary "placers" and "quartz veins." (In British Columbia we have not yet even begun to work our quartz veins.) Successively in California have been

brought to light those singular deposits known as "gold bluffs" and "gold beaches;" the "dead rivers," with their strata of auriferous cement and gravel; the deep hydraulic banks, almost mountains of gold-bearing material; the beds of "gossan" and broad belts of slate, also auriferous; and finally, the "seam diggings," consisting of narrow veins of decomposed quartz, running irregularly through porphyritic and other formations, and which, being full of free gold, and, withal, so friable that they can be broken down with a pick, and often with even a stream of water, are likely to become the sources of extensive and profitable mining. Already a good many have embarked in the business of working these "seams."

The "dead rivers" and hydraulic banks are worked on a vast scale, being now the principal theatres of placer-mining in California. The auriferous gossans, some of which were worked quite extensively a number of years ago, are again attracting attention.

The *San Francisco Herald and Market Review*, 17th January, 1873, contains the following:—

"It is curious to observe how almost every one of those discoveries of gold which, like Fraser River (British Columbia), &c., had come to be regarded popularly as the sheerest delusions, have all the while been the theatres of a tolerably extensive and prosperous mining industry. . . . After proceeding from one description of deposit to another, our miners return and attack those earliest discovered and which had at first been slighted, or perhaps wholly discarded, under the impression that they were unworthy of notice.

"In this manner the vast accumulations of tailings, at first abandoned without any thought that they would ever be looked after more, have since been re-washed, in some cases several times over, and are still preserved for additional operations, when sufficient gold shall have been liberated by further decomposition to warrant the same. Thus it is, certain of our diggings possess a sort of perennial existence, growing out of this power to renew themselves from time to time."

The whole of the above is a lesson to gold-mining croakers.

Coal-Mining.

The presence of good coal in Vancouver Island, and its absence on other portions of the Pacific coast, are much in favour of the province. A distinguished scientific traveller, acquainted with the north-west, Dr. Robert Brown, M.A., President of the Royal Physical Society, Edinburgh, states that the only North Pacific coal specially fitted for steaming purposes is found in the British possessions, all others being of tertiary age and very inferior in quality—slaggy and often sulphurous. "In her coal-fields," Dr. Brown says, "British Columbia has, within herself, the elements of lasting prosperity."

Distribution of Coal-Fields.

The tertiary beds of inferior coal are found in California, Oregon, and Washington (United States); and tertiary croppings are also seen here and there in the southern part of the British territory of Vancouver Island, on part of the west coast of the island, and also in the southern part of the mainland. They extend east, with some interruption, right across the Rocky Mountains.

The secondary beds of the North Pacific coast, affording very good coal, situated so as to be more or less capable of being profitably worked—are believed to be confined to Vancouver Island.

The coal-fields in the Nasse-Skena district have not been carefully examined yet. Anthracitic coal is found in Queen Charlotte Island, which would be of immense value to the whole Pacific coast could it be worked profitably.

The following extract from the report of the director of the Geological Survey of Canada refers to the coal-fields of British Columbia :

“It is a circumstance that will yet be seen to have an important bearing on the future of Canada, that on both her eastern and western shores, one washed by the Atlantic and the other by the Pacific, coal in quantities practically inexhaustible is found near the water's edge. If this does not in time to come give this country a strong commercial position on both oceans then Buckle's theory as to the influence of natural conditions on civilization and progress will have to be revised, and Canadians will have proved themselves degenerate and shiftless sons of enterprising sires. The Comox coal-field, lying between the Beaufort range of hills and the Straits of Georgia, extends for a considerable distance along the coast, and includes Denman and Hornby Islands. The Vancouver Island coal is proved to be a true bituminous coal, for the most part, and the term ‘lignite’ heretofore applied to it is shown to have been a mistake. Anthracite coal, again, is found on the Queen Charlotte Islands, nearly five hundred miles from Victoria, and, from what has already been ascertained, it appears a reasonable inference that the Canadian Pacific shore coal-fields are really of vast extent. The great warm oceanic current, flowing from the Equator towards the North Pole, washes the Canadian shore, making the winters mild, and carrying far north the balmy influences of a moist and warm climate. With open ports in all seasons, as well as abundance of coal and of splendid timber for shipbuilding near to the coast, it will be a contradiction of all former experience if British Columbia does not soon rise to something like the rank of a maritime power on the Pacific.”

Mines at Nanaimo.

Bituminous mines at Nanaimo, on the east side of Vancouver Island, have been worked by an English company (the Vancouver Coal Mining Company) successfully for many years, and a flourishing town has grown up around the mines. The number of miners, artisans, and labourers employed in mining and delivering the coal to vessels at the date of the latest returns was 241; but the entire population of the town (numbering about 1000 souls) may be said to derive its subsistence from the miners. Nanaimo also is a market for the beautiful farming district of Comox.

The excellent quality of the coal of Vancouver Island is well established. It is in great request for gas, steam, and domestic use, and as compared with other coals mined on the Pacific coast, its superiority is unquestioned.

See page 6 of this handbook for proof of the quality of the Nanaimo coal. The coal shipped by this company during the ten years ending 31st December, 1872, reached 330,395 tons, nearly one-half of which was for the San Francisco market. The production of the mines has kept pace with the demand, and the works are being freely extended at several points in view of a growing market.

Wages paid at Nanaimo are as follows:—

Miners	..	..	3	to 4	dollars (12s. to 16s. English) per day.
Mechanic	..	..	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	„	(15s. „) „
Engineer	..	..	2	„ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	„ (8s. „ 14s. „) „
Blacksmith	..	..	2	„ 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	„ (8s. „ 13s. „) „
Labourer	..	..	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	„ 2	„ (7s. „ 8s. „) „
Chinese or Indians	1	„	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	„	(4s. „ 5s. „) „

As the works are being extended, skilled miners would be likely to find employment, and able-bodied men also are required to act as “runners” and “loaders.”

There is no fire-damp in the Nanaimo mine.

Many of the miners and artisans occupy their own dwellings. The company sells town lots at moderate prices, and is extremely desirous to promote the growth of a town of independent freeholders in this eligible spot.

Nanaimo is pleasantly situated, and is already a busy, thriving colonial town, with churches, schools, and a member of parliament. It has none of that “dried-up,” blackened appearance which colliery villages so often present in the mining districts of England. The climate is very like that of England—better than the climate of the north of England. Game and fish are abundant in the neighbourhood.

I have named the above mine because it is worked on a large scale. Other coal-mines on the east coast of the island—the Wellington, the Harewood, etc.—under experienced management, have been worked lately and have very good prospects. Their progress will be described in subsequent editions.

Capital and labour are the two essentials to the almost unlimited development of coal mining in British Columbia. The existence of a fine quality of coal on the seaboard cannot fail to be of the very greatest importance when the Canadian Pacific Railway converts British Columbia into one of the world's highways. By that time, at least three trans-continental railways will connect on the Pacific coast with lines of coasting and ocean steamers, which will get steam coal from the only North Pacific district that can supply it, namely, Vancouver Island. The effect also of a supply of coal on local manufacturing industry cannot be overlooked as an element of future supremacy.

Iron and Stone.

About a mile from the town of Nanaimo, on Newcastle Island, a free-stone quarry is worked. From this place the stone was supplied to build the new United States Mint at San Francisco, California. The stone is easily worked, hardens by exposure, and has all the appearance of a very fine grained granite.

There is plenty of marble in the province, but it has not yet been worked.

The explorations of the Dominion Geological Surveyor, along the coast and in the interior of Vancouver Island, gives the most gratifying account of the vast mineral resources which everywhere abound throughout the length and breadth of the country. Iron, coal, copper, marble, etc., exist in inexhaustible quantities, and must sooner or later be productive of untold wealth. Compared with iron and coal, the gold mines themselves may prove to be of but minor importance. On Texada island alone, the iron-beds, if beds they can properly be called, seeing that they tower up high above the level of the sea, are of

incalculable value, the rock assaying eighty per cent. of pure iron of the very best quality. In the immediate vicinity of these vast iron beds are equally vast beds of excellent limestone. Not only are iron and limestone lying side by side, as if nature had specially intended them for man's use and benefit at some future day, but also in close proximity to them are extensive veins of bituminous coal, which give greatly enhanced value to those mines. That the manufacture of iron is destined to become a staple industry of the country, a source of unlimited wealth, affording in due course of time employment to thousands of labourers and mechanics, may be accepted as a foregone conclusion. As a matter of fact, the people of this country as yet know very little about the real extent and variety of its mineral resources. As the country becomes settled up, we shall of course know more about these things.—*Victoria Standard*.

Silver Mining.

There appears to be really good prospects for silver mining in British Columbia—a branch of mining which would affect the labour market in much the same way as coal mining. Several promising leads have been found, and men are now searching the Cascade Range for more. Some silver quartz has been got at Kootenay. At one silver mine, near Hope, works of a considerable extent are being carried on; a road is made from Hope to the mine itself.

The above silver mine is not the only one known to exist in the Fraser Valley, and so soon as the Hope mine shall have been worked more extensively, and shall have yielded, as is expected, good results, there is no doubt but that other mines, situated in the same range of mountains, will likewise be worked.

The *Standard* newspaper of October, 1872, says of the neighbourhood of the town of Hope :—

"It is now established, beyond all reasonable doubt, that British Columbia is rich in silver. *Our silver prospects are even better than our gold*, and we should not be surprised to see, in the course of another year, not only silver mining on an extensive scale commenced, but such a rush into the interior of this country in search of silver leads, as our neighbours have witnessed in the case of Washoe, White Pine, and other localities."

Copper Mining

has been begun in many places, but not been actively prosecuted, owing to want of capital. The appearances for successful copper mining in several parts of the province are considered to be very encouraging.

Timber.

"Logging" and "saw milling" never will be industries to be much relied upon by newly-arrived emigrants from Europe, as the various descriptions of labour required are best carried on by persons who have had special training.

The West Cascade region of the province is densely wooded, chiefly with many species of gigantic conifers, but a very large part of the East Cascade region (see page 55) is generally unwooded, or but thinly wooded. Where wood exists in the East Cascade region the conifers still predominate.

The settler who is near any main line of communication should not look upon his fine timber as a valueless possession which may be wasted improvidently. The timber on his farm may, within his own lifetime, be worth as much as the soil of his farm.

In reply to many letters from Eastern Canada as to the "lumbering business" in British Columbia, I may state that it is already an important industry and capable of considerable extension. During 10 years ending 1870, about 60 million feet of rough and dressed Douglas fir lumber, with a quantity of shingles, laths, pickets, and about 3500 spars, were exported. This export has greatly increased since. Wages to woodmen range from 25 to 45 gold dollars a month with board, and the same in saw-mills, with higher wages for a few of the more skilled and responsible men. The snow is not of any use in logging in the seaboard districts. Logging roads are made through the woods, and the logs are drawn by oxen, and rolled into the water and floated to the mills. Work in the woods goes on throughout the year, but time is lost to workmen when it rains heavily in winter. Rivers are not greatly used for the conveyance of logs. The business at present is carried on almost entirely on salt water. There are 15 saw-mills throughout the province, but of these 3 only furnish cargoes for export. Logs delivered at the mill cost from 4 to 6 dollars a thousand feet superficial, and the cost of sawing adds other 5 to 7 dollars.

In British Columbia leases of unpre-empted Crown lands may be obtained on very easy terms, but subject to pre-emption by individuals who, however, are not allowed to cut timber on the pre-empted land for sale, or for any purpose, except use upon the pre-emptor's farm.

As regards water power, the whole country is full of most picturesque waterfalls of all sizes, many of which might be used for local saw-mills and other mills. There is some doubt, however, whether, within the Douglas fir region, near the coast, many good water privileges can be found suitably placed, and with a sufficiently regular, powerful, all-the-year-round flow of water to drive large export saw-mills. Probably steam-power will always be found safest for large saw-mills.

With respect to the use of the British Columbian *rivers for "logging" purposes*, the lumberman must bear in mind the physical structure of the North American continent, according to which the long and gentle slopes descend from the spine of the continent—the Rocky range—towards the Atlantic Ocean, and the short and rapid slopes towards the Pacific Ocean. This gives a character to the rivers west of the Rocky range. The rivers generally are interrupted by rapids; they often flow compressed between gloomy rocky walls; they rise and fall with great rapidity. The aridness of the country east from the Cascade range in British Columbia diminishes the volume of the East Cascade rivers very much—the Fraser in fact being, as already said, the only one strong enough to get through the Cascade range to the sea.

That the Fraser River, if valuable timber grows near its upper waters, may be, by the adoption of "slides" and other improvements, made available for water carriage of logs from the East Cascade region to the seaboard for export purposes, I do not doubt, but the difficulty and expense will postpone this undertaking until the supplies of timber in the West Cascade region, both in English and American territory, are considerably exhausted. The saw-miller

who proposes to cut for export must look at present for a saw-mill location and a logging ground in the West Cascade region.

The only timber exported in cargoes is that of the *Douglas fir*, commonly called "pine." It is a tough, strong wood, well adapted for beams, but good also for planks and deals. It makes excellent masts and yards, and is used for shipbuilding and housebuilding. It grows to the height of 150 to 200 feet, and attains a thickness of 5 to 8 feet at the butt. It carries its thickness well up. Dressed masts of 36 inches in diameter, at one-third from butt, and with proper proportions for the required length, have been supplied from the Douglas fir forests. This British Columbian wood is known in Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain, as "Oregon pine," though Oregon does not export it to these markets. A good growing demand for British Columbian Douglas fir timber and square timber exists in South America, Australia, and China, and a few cargoes of spars are sent annually to England.

This Douglas fir (or "Douglas pine," or "Oregon pine") predominates in the forests of the West Cascade region, but not in the arid parts of the East Cascade region. It is plentiful in Washington Territory (United States). The Douglas fir is also found in some of the Rocky Mountain valleys, on the Blue Mountains of Oregon, and here and there eastward as far as the head waters of the Platte. At present the principal seats of its manufacture for export are the coast of British Columbia, and in Puget Sound (United States). The Douglas fir does not grow in any quantity north of Millbank Sound, in lat. 52°.

The principal existing mills are in the New Westminster district, and probably that neighbourhood will continue to be the chief seat of the export of Douglas fir. The Nasse-Skena district looks like a good saw-milling country on the map, but the Douglas fir, as just said, is not found so far north. The inlets on the mainland, or some of the outlying islands between Millbank Sound and the New Westminster district, probably offer locations for export saw-mills, but it is not known, however, at present, that these places can be found readily. Many of the inlets are almost wall-sided, with short water-courses or torrents emptying into them the water collected among the surrounding gloomy mountains. The rivers generally which flow into these inlets are not good "logging" rivers. There is, however, a vast extent of sheltered water-line between Millbank Sound and the New Westminster district, and it is impossible not to believe that suitable places for large Douglas fir export saw-mills are to be found where practical saw-millers would make fortunes.

The West Cascade region is difficult to traverse, and has not been a tenth part explored by saw-mill men. If it should prove that suitable locations for large saw-mills are few, the value of these to the possessors will be proportionately increased.

The saw-mill business in British Columbia would be greatly helped if the San Francisco market were opened by the reduction or removal of the duty on foreign lumber.

None of the other conifers in the north-west are likely to take the place of the Douglas fir for export trade, until the latter is completely exhausted in accessible situations in both English and American territory. I may, however, name a few of these conifers.

Menzies' fir ("spruce fir," or "black spruce") is plentiful; smaller than the

Douglas fir, but still a Titan. Merten's fir ("hemlock spruce") is also a very large tree, with a straight trunk. The wood of these trees has little export value compared with the Douglas fir. Hemlock lasts well in the ground and makes good laths. Another large fir is the "Canada fir," but the timber is inferior, though when seasoned it makes boards, scantling, and shingles. The bark is useful in tanning. The "Contorted pine"—which some call the "Scotch fir"—is found through the valley of the Fraser on the high grounds; it grows from 25 to 50 feet high, and 1 foot in diameter. On the upper parts of the Fraser this tree is plentiful, but of little value except for its resin. The white pine (the north-western representative of the *Strobus*) is a fine tall tree, with wood like the white pine of Eastern Canada, but it is not known to grow sufficiently in groves to supply large export saw-mills. For local uses the white pine will be important.

In selecting a farm, the settler will find small cedar a most valuable farm-wood for fencing and roofing. It is durable and easily split. Cedar grows scattered among the fir forests. Many fine specimens are found on the mountains, 30 to 40 feet round at the butt, and 200 feet high. The Indians use cedar for numerous purposes; I speak of the *Thuja gigantea*. It becomes rare as you go north, and ceases about 58°. There is another fine tree of the same kind, the yellow cypress (*Cupressus nutkaensis*). This grows small in Vancouver Island and in the south of the West Cascade region, but north of 53°, up to about Sitka, it is plentiful, and as large as its southern congener, the cedar. The yellow cypress is tough, light, and fragrant, and takes a fine polish. I think it likely that it will be exported in small cargoes when the Nasse-Skena district is settled.

The alder is frequently met with among the fir-forests, chiefly beside streams, or in cool, humid places. It grows to about 30 or 40 feet, with a straight smooth trunk. Alder land is generally good, and is easily cleared. Alder makes good firewood. The large-leaved maple is our best substitute for hard wood; it grows 70 feet high and 2 or 3 feet thick, generally on the banks of streams and in rich river-bottoms. The Indians make snow-shoes, spear-handles, &c., of this wood, and weave baskets, hats, and mats, from the inner bark. It is plentiful in the Nasse-Skena district, but is found scattered in the West Cascade region generally (including Vancouver Island). The crab-apple is common in swampy places, but of no great size. It is hard enough to take polish. Birch is found scattered in the Nasse-Skena, and also again in the Kootenay districts. Some say the elm grows in the last-named district.

The oak (Garry's oak) is too rare a tree in British Columbia to be of much value. It is found in some parts of Vancouver Island—for instance, near Victoria—on lands over which firs have not yet encroached. Many of the oaks in Saanich are straight and of fair dimensions, say 2½ feet to 3 feet through. The wood is useful though inferior to the English oak. I need not mention the arbutus, dogwood, cottonwood, and other trees, as the immigrant does not require a complete catalogue of trees.

Sheep Farming.

Sheep thrive well in British Columbia, increase rapidly, and are profitable both for the mutton and wool they yield. A considerable population, which will eat mutton, will always be employed in mining, agricultural, and other pursuits.

One great reason, probably, why the supply of wool is so small, comparatively, in North America (including the United States), is that the characteristics of the soil, surface, and climate of the north-west of the continent have not been known, and that consequently sheep have not been taken to the part of the country specially suited for wool-bearing animals. Mountain-sheep and goats have been found in the north-west from the earliest known period.

Sheep—West Cascade Region.

In the humid, wooded West Cascade region there are few large ranges for sheep, and at present the wolves and panthers occasionally kill sheep, as well as pigs. If these pests would permit it, the West Cascade farmers might always advantageously add a few head of sheep to their general farming stock, as is done in Eastern Canada.

These sheep would be a benefit to the farm by eating the grass which other stocks did not consume, and by giving good manure in return. The wool also would generally command a good price, as small flocks can be better cared for than large ones.

Sheep—East Cascade Region.

Thriving flocks of 2000 sheep are found in the East Cascade region, but "wool-growing" is yet quite in its infancy. The plains and undulating grassy table-lands of the East Cascade region are especially cattle-lands; but bold, hilly land with natural features, affording shelter from wind and weather, such as the sheep-farmer likes, can be found in many parts. Lower ground also, stony and dry, would answer well in this region for sheep, except, perhaps, the alkali lands, which, it is said, cause wool to be deficient in lustre and strength.

I have already spoken of the natural pasture, bunch-grass, as a prime grass for fattening all the year round, and as also being delicate and liable to be injured by close, continuous sheep-feeding.

There are various other good grasses—black sage, for instance, which sheep are very fond of—and my belief is that these grasses are in sufficient quantity on good natural sheep-runs to justify the expectation of sheep-farming being undertaken on a great scale.

I am quite aware it is one thing to have sheep merely as an adjunct to a farm or other establishment, or as fat stock for the markets, and quite another thing to establish a wool-producing sheep-station, distinctively on a secure and self-supporting footing. It is the latter undertaking I am thinking of.

Mr. A. C. Anderson, author of a Prize Essay on the country, and who has travelled much through it as an officer of the Hudson's Bay Company, says that he "can recall to mind extensive tracts which seem specially adapted for the pasturing of very extensive flocks."

The climate, though variable within certain limits, is, as already explained, on the whole, temperate in summer and winter; and, as a consequence, the grass is generally in such a state that the sheep would not lose condition. The soil in general is dry; the supply of pure water abundant.

Disease among the flocks now existing in the East Cascade region has been most rare. The sheep are not subject to that formidable enemy of the sheep-farmer, the scab.

Kind of Sheep.

The sheep, of course, must be adapted to the country. This is a fundamental principle in sheep-farming. A man may change his "run," but he cannot easily change his flock.

It is the opinion of several experienced sheep-farmers in Scotland, with whom I have consulted, that a suitable breed for the whole of British Columbia might be found in a cross between a Cheviot ewe and a Leicester ram.

The large and heavy Cheviot proper would stand the wetness of the West Cascade region, as well as the winter cold of the East Cascade region; but this sheep might not like the hot summers of the latter. Again, the Cheviot is inclined to roam, and yields comparatively little wool. Crossing a Cheviot ewe with a Leicester ram, however, would produce a sheep which probably would stand both the heat and cold of the East Cascade region; this crossing would at the same time tame the Cheviot, make the sheep more disposed to take on fat, and would almost double the fleece, while improving the quality of the wool.

While travelling in Colorado lately where the climate somewhat resembles that of portions of British Columbia, I was told that the favourite plan there for wool-sheep was to cross imported thorough-bred Merino rams with native Mexican ewes. The latter are believed to be the old Spanish Merino breed, run out, but healthy, hardy, and acclimated.

This cross prepared the way for mutton-sheep, crossing readily with South-down or Cotswold, and giving a large frame and fine mutton.

There are good breeds of sheep in Oregon (quite close to British Columbia)—Southdowns, Cotswolds, Merinos, and also a cross of the Merino and Leicester.

The Merino blood results in the production of short heavy fine wool, which I am told, is found in California to be rather short for the manufacture of "fine goods" and too expensive for "common goods," owing to the shortness and shrinkage.

Goats.

There is a great demand in America for the hair of the Angora goat—an animal that would probably thrive well in British Columbia.

These animals delight in stony or rocky places. They are more attached to the place where they have been bred than sheep, are more sagacious, and require less herding.

They are inclined to breed oftener than once a year, but should not be allowed to do so. They often produce twins, and having an abundance of milk, are able to rear their young well. On any farm where they thrive well, they are not liable to any disease; consequently the increase of a flock is very rapid.

Goats should lamb when there is young grass. If grass be scarce, and the goats consequently have little milk, or if their udders be tender, they will reject their kids. To make goats take to their offspring is the only difficulty connected with farming them. Young goats, more than old ones, are liable to this fault. After the kids are a month or six weeks old—during which they should not be allowed to follow the flock and get lost behind stones or heaps, or destroyed by beasts or birds of prey—neither young nor old require any particular attention. In fact, they should be left alone as much as possible. When the hair becomes loose it should be combed off for market.

General Remarks on Wool Growing.

Upon the whole, it may be said that the sheep and goat farming capabilities of British Columbia are worth the attention of practical sheep-farmers in Great Britain, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand.

I need not point out the advantage of being early in the country to start sheep-farming on the natural pastures, before sheep-farming becomes an affair of cultivated grasses and enclosures. This is a great point.

Sheep-land in New Zealand sells high, and there is but a limited quantity. Victoria, again is out of the question, as every acre of sheep-land is taken up (that is, claimed and occupied) right through to Sydney, and heavily taxed. South Australia again—there is no surface water; all well-sinking—which is very expensive. The days have gone by for an overseer or manager in these countries to get a share, or even an interest, in a run, and the colonial laws are pressing heavily on the squatters.

Fisheries.

In speaking of the fisheries of British Columbia, one may almost be said to be speaking of something which has no existence. With the exception of a few factories for putting up salmon in tins on the Fraser River, and one or two whaling enterprises of a few years' standing, no attempt whatever has been made to develop the *actually marvellous resources* of this province in the way of fish. I will, therefore, proceed to give a list of the fish that are to be found in quantities that would warrant the establishment of fisheries, adding a brief description of the habits, locality, and commercial utility of each class of fish.

Description of fish found in British Columbia and Vancouver Island:—Whale, sturgeon, salmon, oolachan or houlican, cod, herring, halibut, sardine, anchovy, oysters, haddock, and dog-fish.

There is no law governing fisheries in British Columbia. Fishing is carried on throughout the year without any restrictions. This state of things is well suited to a new and thinly populated country. The restrictions of a close season would be very injurious to the province at present, and for many years to come.

Whale.—On this subject the Hon. H. L. Langevin, C.B., reports:—

"I saw one of the whalers, the 'Byzantium,' in Deep Bay. She was an English brig, commanded by Captain Calhoun, and on board of her was Captain Roys, the inventor of an explosive ball, which is used in the whale fishery, and which, on penetrating the marine monster, explodes, and throws out a harpoon. The first whale against which this projectile was used was killed in 1868. In 1869 and 1870, the company made use of a small steam-vessel; and their success last year induced them to devote to the trade a brig of 179 tons, manned with twenty hands.

"I was assured that, if that expedition proved a success, there is room in our Pacific waters for at least fifty undertakings of a similar character. I observe that, since my return, the whaling schooner 'Industry' has arrived at Victoria with 300 barrels, or about 10,000 gallons of oil, after an absence of only five weeks. One of the whales killed during the expedition was sixty feet long, and would certainly yield nearly seventy barrels of oil.

“On this subject the Blue Book of 1870 contains the following:—

“‘During the year there were three whaling companies in existence (one of these has since broken down). Thirty-two whales were killed, yielding 25,800 gallons of oil, worth 50 cents per gallon. There was one vessel with boats, and there were two stations with boats, altogether employing forty-nine hands. The capital invested in this interest amounted to about 20,000 dollars.

“‘The dog-fish catch exceeds in importance that of the whales. 50,000 gallons of dog-fish oil were rendered, worth 40 cents per gallon. This branch of industry is steadily progressing.’

“From another source I have obtained the following information respecting 1871:—

“‘There are three whaling expeditions now in action in the waters of British Columbia, viz.:—

“‘1st. The British Columbia Whaling Company, with the ‘Kate,’ a schooner of 70 tons, outlay 15,000 dollars. They have already secured 20,000 gallons; they expect 10,000 more. The value of oil here is 37 cents a gallon. In England it is worth 35*l.* a ton of 252 gallons. This company have in addition secured already 30,000 gallons of dog-fish oil, worth 37 cents here per gallon, 55 cents in California, and 35*l.* a ton in England.

“‘2nd. The brig ‘Byzantium,’ 179 tons, expenditure 20,000 dollars. Their take for the year is not known.

“‘3rd. Steamer ‘Emma’ and screw ‘Industry,’ expenditure 10,000 dollars, estimated take 15,000 gallons.’”

This coast is considered by an old whaler from Providence to be one of the best fields in the world from whence to start whaling enterprises. The mildness of the climate as compared with northern Atlantic climates, and the sheltered coasts of British Columbia, offer great advantages to whale-fishing companies.

The *Sturgeon* abounds in the rivers and estuaries of British Columbia. It attains a gigantic size, over 500 lbs. in weight. The flesh is excellent, both fresh and smoked. No attempt, that I am aware of, has ever been made to put the fish up for market. Its commercial value is derived from the isinglass and caviare which can be made from it. I am not aware of there having been any attempt made to manufacture isinglass in the province. Caviare of excellent quality has been produced. At present I should be inclined to believe that there is no person in the province capable of making isinglass, which is, therefore, a resource entirely undeveloped as yet.

Salmon.—The salmon in the waters of British Columbia are excellent in quality, varied in species, and most abundant. In the rivers, which they penetrate up to their head waters, they are caught by a drag-net in the deep waters, and by a bag-net in the rapids. In the sea they are generally caught with hook and line; a canoe at certain seasons can be filled in a day by the latter method. The Fraser River salmon is justly famous. They begin to enter the river in March, and different kinds continue to arrive until October, the successors mixing for a time with the last of their forerunners. There is a greater degree of certainty in the periodical arrivals of each kind in this river than at the coasts and islands. The salmon is used fresh, salted, pickled, smoked, and kippered, and for export is put up salted in barrels, and fresh

in one- or two-pound tins ; the latter process has only been commenced during the past three years. The article produced is of a most excellent description, and will doubtless prove a source of considerable export trade when it becomes known in suitable markets. There would appear to be no limit to the catch of salmon, but the question of market must always be considered.

Oolachans or Houlicans.—This small fish, about the size of a sprat, appears in the rivers of British Columbia and about certain estuaries on the coast, towards the end of April. Their run lasts about three weeks, during which time they may be captured in myriads. Eaten fresh, they are most delicious, and they are also excellent when salted or smoked. This fish produces oil abundantly, which is of a pure and excellent quality, and which, some think, will eventually supersede cod-liver oil. The fish are caught with a pole about 10 feet in length, along which are arranged, for 5 feet at the end, nails like the teeth of a comb, only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart. The comb is thrust smartly into the water, brought up with a backward sweep of the hands, and is rarely found without 3 or 4 fish impaled on the nails. I have seen a canoe filled with them in 2 hours by a couple of hands.

Cod.—Several kinds of cod are found in the waters of British Columbia, which are excellent both fresh and cured. It has been often asserted, I cannot say with what truth, that the true cod is found on the British Columbian coast. That, however, remains to be proved. The true cod is found in the waters near Behring's Straits.

Herring.—This fish also abounds during the winter months, and is of good sound quality. It comes into the harbours about March. It is largely used in the province, both fresh and smoked, but nothing has been done in the way of export.

Halibut.—There are many halibut banks in the waters of this province. The fish attain an enormous size, and are caught by deep-sea lines. They are only used in the province at present. They are of first-rate quality, and an excellent article of food.

Sardines.—These are found among the herrings. I cannot state if they are precisely the fish known to commerce under that designation, or in what quantity they exist ; but they are firm in flesh and excellent in flavour.

Anchovy.—This fish is only second to the oolachan, or houlican, in its abundance. During the autumn it abounds in the harbours and inlets, and may be taken with great ease in any quantity. Eaten fresh, they have rather a bitter flavour.

Haddock.—This fish, called in the country "mackerel," to which, however, it has no resemblance, is a great favourite both fresh and cured. It is caught in the winter months, and when smoked forms a luxurious addition to the breakfast-table. A very large trade will be done some day in exporting this fish to the southern ports of America, where fish is highly valued in a smoked or cured state.

Dog-Fish.—This species of fish can be taken with great facility with a line and hook in almost any of the numerous bays and inlets of this province. The oil extracted from them is obtained in abundance, and is commercially

of much value. It is produced in moderately large quantities by the Indians, and exported. (See Mr. Langevin's Report, quoted above.)

Oysters are found in all parts of the province. Though small in their native beds, they are finely flavoured and of good quality. When, in course of time, regular beds are formed, and their proper culture is commenced, a large export will, no doubt, take place both in a fresh and canned state. There is a large consumption of oysters in cans on the Pacific coast.

Beet Sugar.

It seems to me almost certain that British Columbia will produce beet sugar for herself, and perhaps also to export. The primary essentials for this manufacture are cheap land and fuel, and pure water—three things which British Columbia can offer more of than any region in North America. The sugar of a civilised country, it is said, costs nearly as much as its wheat, and certainly beet sugar is almost a necessity in British Columbia, where the cost of carriage to many parts of the country must always add so much to the price of imported cane sugar. The demand in the province at present is, of course, in proportion to the population. The refuse of the beet is good food for either beef-cattle, cows, or sheep—3 tons of refuse beet being equal to 2 tons of the best hay.

I believe that for the beet, a mixed soil, not too easily dried, is best. The alkaline matter should not be in large proportion for sugar, but for spirit manufacture this circumstance is not so important. Deep ploughing is a requisite to success, and even double ploughing is desirable. Seed, in England, should be sown by the middle of April. A fair average yield would be 20 tons of beets, and the leaves besides. A beet crop takes largely from the soil valuable ingredients—for instance, potash and phosphoric acid—and their waste should be supplied by manuring with the refuse matter of the sugar manufacture. The waste liquor of distillation alone contains three-fourths of the abstracted potash. The manure of animals fed upon the pulp and the leaves would nearly embody the remaining fourth.

Flax Growing.

The existence of wild hemp and flax in British Columbia promises well for their cultivation. An immense growing demand exists for these and other fibred plants. New Zealand hemp in 1872 sold for 25*l.* to 44*l.* per ton in London; the tow 12*l.* to 18*l.* per ton. The Egyptian Government dressed flax 43*l.* to 56*l.*; Egyptian scutched 54*l.* to 60*l.* per ton. Flax is a crop which requires much attention. It is not, therefore, likely to be grown by settlers who are hard at work "making" their farms, but older settlers should try this crop as a portion of the regular rotation on their farms. It is essentially the small farmer's crop, sown by himself, and cleaned, pulled, steeped, and sometimes even scutched, by his wife and children. This is the only way in which it can be grown in British Columbia until labour becomes much cheaper. I imagine the best plan at the present time would be to collect wild hemp or flax, also to cultivate some from the best and purest seed, and send several tons of the simple, unprepared plants to be dressed in England. It will thus be ascertained what the wild, and also the cultivated plants,

from British Columbia are respectively fitted for: They may be fit for fine cloths, or only for ropes, twine, and coarse fabrics. Flax has been cultivated in Oregon, but only to make oil-cake for cattle. If British Columbia would show what kind of hemp or flax she can produce, the next question would be to get farmers in a district to grow flax regularly, and subscribe to build a scutch-mill of a size regulated by the probable wants of the flax-growers in the immediate neighbourhood. A small 4-stand mill could be built for 750 dollars (150*l.* English). Water-power would be best for such mills, as they would only be worked for part of the year. Perhaps, as the growth of flax increased, practical flax-makers from the north of Ireland might form in the province flax-preparing associations on some principle not requiring the paying out of high wages. Land is rich and cheap, water abundant, wood plentiful, and perhaps Chinese or Indian hand labour might be used.

The Government of the province can give full information as to the proper management of a flax crop. It may here be stated that flax is usually grown on a wide range of soils—sandy, calcareous, clay, loam, peat, &c. The most suitable, probably, is a deep friable clay loam, or the alluvial deposit of rivers. The land should be very well drained and subsoiled, and thoroughly weeded and pulverized like a garden soil. There must neither be underground nor surface water. Plough in winter and expose to action of frost. Replough and harrow in spring. Sowing time in Europe is March to May—say April—2½ bushels to the statute acre. Favourite seed comes from Russia, but Dutch seed is extensively used for heavy soils. The flax is not cut with the scythe, but is pulled up by the roots.

Tobacco.

That tobacco will grow luxuriantly in most parts of the southern portion of the East Cascade region appears now to be beyond a doubt, and from all I can learn from American growers, there are quite as few drawbacks to its successful cultivation there as in any part of America. In recommending this crop, however, to immigrants as a source of profit, I should certainly mislead them much if I represented it as one which could be brought into the market in a saleable state, without the greatest care and attention in every stage, from the seed-bed until it is packed for manufacture. The rules for its preservation are perfectly simple, but a want of attention to them must inevitably end in failure,—in this respect differing altogether from crops which require little attention. As, however, the climate and soil appear, judging from results, to be so well suited to this plant, and its consumption, moreover, being now so general, I cannot but think that many may be induced to try their luck with it, if only for their own consumption. If undertaken by skilled tobacco planters, there would be a ready and profitable sale for almost any quantity.

Tobacco, according to the latest returns, is grown to the extent of about 7,000,000 lbs. in Holland, 5,000,000 lbs. in Belgium, 55,600,000 lbs. in France, 4,700,000 lbs. in Austria, 3,000,000 lbs. in Greece, and 274,000,000 lbs. in the United States.

APPENDIX.

NOTES FOR A YEAR RESPECTING THE SETTLEMENTS AT SUMASS AND CHILLIWHACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA. (See page 52.)

A wearied traveller from Cariboo arrives. He says:—

"The express canoe landed us at Kinset, by the Sumass. What a noble landscape! the grass so green, the earth so cool, the flowers so beautiful, and the supper! such a treat! fresh eggs, fresh butter, real tea, and cream that smacked of mountain thyme. I wished to sleep outside; no! I wanted to lie outside and watch the stars and the river and drink the pure air all night; but the farmer insisted on giving me a bed. I tumbled in, and was nearly lost in the mountains of down. I assure you I was astonished by the sleep I had here."

"*January 8th.*—The snow has all gone from this neighbourhood, except that which has drifted in low spots. The stock in general are looking splendid; farmers, having plenty of feed, lost none of their animals during the last cold snap."

"Two horses dead from some disease—public meeting about bridges and roads; removing driftwood from river; fences—the following resolution passed among others:—

"That the Government make a survey during the coming summer of the Sumass Valley, for the purpose of making an estimate of the cost of building a dyke to prevent the flooding by the Fraser at high stages, of a large tract of valuable land supposed to contain from 15,000 to 25,000 acres fit for agricultural purposes."

"*February.*—Bad weather—rains and snow—three calves eaten by wolves, and some lost in quagmires—some weak cattle died.

"*March 11th.*—Weather changeable; has been raining; cattle doing well; fall wheat looking well, though winter was bad; 80 additional acres to be sown in spring—farmers busy ploughing; fences and improvements going on; two years ago a farm sold for 450 dollars (90*l.* English), three months ago, 1600 dollars (320*l.* English).

"New grist-mill arranged for—school flourishing.

"*April 15th.*—Weather beautiful—a pinch of frost occasionally—new Tariff disliked—600 dollars (120*l.* English) subscribed for Wesleyan parsonage—camp meeting to be held before 'high water' this year—seeding not yet finished—had a visit from buyers of work cattle—potatoes shipped to Yale sold for 2 cents. (1*d.* English) a lb. at the landing.

"*May 6th.*—Another splendid tract of 'alder brush' land, 12,000 to 15,000 acres, found near Matsqui—soil very rich—new road will go near it—80 feet above highest water. A twin heifer, after a bad winter, when slaughtered, yielded 62½ lbs. loose fat. Stock well—new flouring-mill begun—seeding about finished—busy planting wheat—both spring and fall wheat forcing its way out, though the past weather has been bad—delightful weather—bright sun—cloudless sky—balmy air—unwelcome night visitor—a slight nip by Jack Frost—very unusual—mosquitoes not appeared.

"*May 18th.*—The Fraser rising fast.

"*June 25th.*—Dry—a few showers wanted—petition about Post-office, and against all liquor-licences—school teacher appointed—will bring his family—hotel to be built.

"*June 28th.*—Beautiful showery weather—crops well—haying will begin in a few days—the place now has a saw-mill, grist-mill, market, school, and church.

"*July 3rd.*—Too dry—woods seem on fire—water at its height some weeks ago—very few mosquitoes—a farmer 60 acres wheat in one block.

"*July 20th.*—Haying about finished—harvesting commenced—root crops have suffered from want of rain—school opens next Thursday—bush fires raging—smoke annoying.

"*August 12th.*—Fine weather—crops very heavy—the prairies that were flooded at high water have splendid grass—harvesting drawing to close—good crops—forest burning on American side—annual Wesleyan Camp Meeting to be on 3rd September—new parsonage begun—a farmer who sowed 5 bushels of wheat (Chili Club) got 100 bushels—the heads averaged 70 to 100 kernels each—grist-mill nearly finished—a fine dwelling-house being erected—mosquitoes disappeared—sent 35 dollars subscription to the Royal Columbia Hospital at New Westminster.

"*September.*—Some farmers not quite done harvest—some still cutting wild hay for wintering—one farmer has 50 stacks up—hay very good, owing to low overflow of Fraser River this year—a marriage—thrashing about to commence.

"*September 23rd.*—Many farmers busy ploughing for fall wheat—thrashing will be finished soon—another teacher arrived—some frost on night of 19th—heavy rain 21st, and now a gale."

ABRIDGED NEWSPAPER REPORTS FOR ONE YEAR RESPECTING THE LILLOOET-CLINTON COUNTRY, INCLUDING BONAPARTE, WILLIAMS LAKE, AND UP TO QUESNEL MOUTH. (See page 68.)

"Bonaparte Valley, *January 17th*.—Stock has not suffered, except a few cattle which slipped on the ice—fed on sage-brush on the side hills, not covered with snow.

"Clinton, *February 4th*.—Had been very cold about Christmas, mercury frozen—gradually moderated to freezing-point on 10th January—ranged since 10 above to 10 below zero—stock doing well—sleighing splendid from the Bonaparte up—one firm will have 100,000 lbs. of bacon and hams for Cariboo and Omineca markets.

"Cache Creek, *February 20th*.—Winter gone suddenly—sudden thaw—beef cattle rolling in fat—a few exhausted stock died during winter.

"Clinton, *March 9th*.—Spring weather—all snow gone—a little frost at nights—clear sunshiny days—farmers on the Thompson and Bonaparte busy ploughing—cattle doing well.

"Williams Lake, *April 10th*.—All seed in ground—cattle quite fat—Cache Creek and Bonaparte mild spring weather.

"Lillooet, *April 27th*.—Wheat crops magnificent—cannot see the land from the road—green blades waving like a meadow in summer.

"Clinton, *July 30th*.—Busy haying and harvesting—had unusual rain for such a dry climate—might injure hay crop.

"Lillooet, *August 10th*.—Everything in the shape of a crop in the district abundant and in fine condition.

"August 20th.—Busy harvesting—some finished on the Fraser River, and now eating bread from this year's wheat.

"Clinton, *October 11th*.—Fine Cotswold rams arrived—flour-mill finished; lumber (sawn wood) cost 30 dollars (6*l*. English) per thousand feet superficial; shingles for the roof cost 8 dollars (32*s*. English) per thousand in number. The new thresher has threshed this month 5½ million pounds of oats in country about Williams Lake, Lake La Hache, and San Jose Valley.

"November 7th.—Snow fell on Lillooet flat (a bench of the Fraser River, 1000 feet above sea-level) severe frost—zero—river frozen (this was a very bad winter). In 1861, the severest winter known for twenty years at Lillooet begun on 27th November, and may be said to have lasted to end of March."

ABRIDGED REPORT OF EXPLORATION, NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT, by
MR. JOHN FANNIN IN 1873.

That part of the New Westminster District lying between Boundary Bay and the Langley Settlement.—A few patches of swamp, grass land were met with; also two belts of alder land. With the exception of these, the country is heavily timbered, with considerable fallen timber and thick undergrowth, the soil light and gravelly—years of labour before even the most favourable parts could be made available for agricultural purposes. A few groves of excellent fir and cedars; one about three miles east of Hall's Prairie, and the other between the latter place and the Boundary Line. Hall's Prairie—a tract of fern and grass land—is situated west of the southern extremity of Langley Prairie, and about three miles from the Boundary Line. Soil, black loam with clay and gravel subsoil.

In and about the Langley District, a number of excellent farms.

The Langley Prairie is all occupied; but a great part of it is uncultivated.

Between Langley and Matsqui, some of the best land met with during the exploration. Eastward from southern extremity of Langley Prairie, say five miles, and southward towards Boundary Line, extends a strip of country where the undergrowth is thick, yet the soil here is of the best description (black loam) and in places very deep. The timber has been nearly all destroyed by fire, and fallen timber and matted undergrowth form an almost impenetrable jungle. But the difficulties in the way of bringing this land under cultivation are not so formidable as at first sight appear. A fire placed in here about the month of October, should the season be favourable, would sweep it comparatively clear. Between this tract and the river, the country is somewhat broken or hilly, and in places the soil light and gravelly.

Matsqui.—Eastward towards Matsqui, and reaching within one mile of the Matsqui Prairie, is situated one of the finest belts of alder land in the district. It commences near the river and extends southward about seven miles, and is probably three miles wide. The timber is very uniform in size, and about six inches through. This tract of land is comparatively level and free from undergrowth, and is also far above high water mark. The soil, black loam with clay subsoil.

Between this alder belt and Matsqui Prairie, the country is slightly rolling; the prairie itself being bounded on the west and south by maple and alder ridges, with here and there small openings covered with a heavy growth of fern. The timber is nearly all dead, and the obstacles in the way of clearing it off and bringing the land to a state of cultivation, are light indeed compared with those

which settlers have to contend with in other countries. The fire, in fact, does the most of the work; the stumps and roots being in a state of decay, can be easily got rid of; the fern is the worst enemy to contend with, but this in time disappears. Some of these ridges are now under cultivation, and the result is really surprising. I was shown a field of wheat which was growing on one of them, and I have no hesitation in saying that, for yield and quality of grain, it will equal anything ever raised in the Province.

This wheat was raised on ground which had never been ploughed; the land had merely been burnt over, the stumps taken out, the seed sowed and harrowed in; and at the time I saw it (25th of August) was ready for reaping.

Matsqui Prairie is about four miles square, and is subject to overflow during extreme high water; but for the greater part of the year affords an excellent range for stock. Nestling between the range of hills on the west, and Sumass Mountain on the east, it presents a very charming picture indeed.

Sumass.—Between Matsqui Prairie and Sumass, with the exception of a strip of timbered land along the foot of the mountain, the Sumass Mountain fills the space.

Reaching Sumass we proceeded up the river, from which it takes its name, thence to the Boundary Line, along which we travelled and finished our exploration of the country south of Matsqui. Here and there small patches of open, fern land occur; but aside from these the country is heavily timbered, and where the fire has not crossed very fine groves of cedar and fir are found. Here again is met this immense growth of weeds, berry bushes, &c., which covers the whole country westward to Langley. The soil being of a rich loamy nature is formed, no doubt, by the constant decaying of this mass of vegetable matter, which year after year springs up, and year after year rots away. Between Sumass and the Boundary Line the land is low and swampy.

Sumass Prairie contains an area of nearly 25,000 acres, but much of it is subject to overflow. Considerable high land is contained within its boundaries, part of which is under cultivation, and the results so far, have been not only encouraging, but in some instances wonderful.

Root crops grow remarkably well here, thirty tons of turnips have been raised from one acre. Potatoes, carrots, onions, &c., do equally as well.

Now, to illustrate the small amount of trouble and expense attending the cultivation of this land, I will merely instance one field of wheat of eighty acres which was shown me by a farmer, giving nearly his own words. The cost of producing this wheat, that is breaking up the soil from its original state, sowing and including seed, did not amount to three hundred dollars. Now placing the average yield of this field at thirty bushels per acre (its appearance would warrant expectations above this average), the reader can form some idea as to the amount of profit on the labour and capital invested.

Yet it has been fairly proved, by practical tests, that the soil of the low land, that is the land subject to overflow, is the most productive. And it is a matter of no small regret, that some steps have not been taken, and some plan set on foot, by which the lands of this extensive valley might be reclaimed. Guarded on the east and west by the Chilliwack and Sumass Mountains, it presents a frontage to the river two and a half miles long, across which, and between the points of these two mountains, it is contended a dyke, the average height of which would not exceed six feet, would effectually reclaim the whole valley. It is also claimed by practical minds that the actual cost of dyking would not exceed an average of one dollar per acre. Now ten times this amount per acre would scarcely leave the most favourable timbered land in the district ready for the plough. But dyking is something from which individual effort shrinks, and which individual labour cannot be expected to accomplish in such an instance as this.

Chilliwack.—Leaving Sumass, we proceeded direct to Chilliwack, thence across the country in a southerly direction, along the valley of the Choowallah River from which we strike the Boundary Line. This country, probably six miles in extent, is all timbered, with the exception of a few patches of open burnt land, the surface broken or hilly; the soil generally good, being light loam with clay subsoil; but on the hills sandy, mixed with gravel. The timber, which in places is valuable, consists of fir, cedar, and cottonwood, with thick undergrowth of vine-maple, hazel, and dogwood. In this stretch of land, and about three miles from the Sumass Settlement, is also situated a cranberry marsh of about five hundred acres.

Along the valley of the Choowallah River several flats were under cultivation by the Indians, and very good crops of wheat, timothy hay, potatoes, &c., were produced. In fact I found all along, from Sumass to Cheam, the Indians were fast following in the footsteps of the whites in the matter of farming; nearly every little settlement having its patches of cereals and root crops. Returning from this point we proceeded up the valley of the Chilliwack River to the base of the mountains; distant from Fraser River about eight miles. The features of the country here are more favourable than along the valley of the Choowallah, the surface being not so much broken, and the soil richer and deeper. The timber consists of cottonwood, vine-maple, and alder, with a few scattering fir and cedar, the latter very large but of a poor quality; the undergrowth, hazel, berry-bushes, and nettles. Coal has been discovered here at the foot of the mountains.

Chilliwack is perhaps the most substantial and best regulated farming district on the mainland, not in the Province; but it might not be considered in the nature of this report to proclaim facts

which are already patent to even the casual observer, were it not for the purpose of adducing proof as to what can be attained in the matter of farming on the Lower Fraser by careful industry. Here are to be seen those signs which are the certain indications of prosperity; extensive and carefully cultivated fields, large and well filled barns, and neat and comfortable looking farm-houses surrounded with their gardens of fruit and vegetables. These signs not only point to the great fertility of the soil, but have a tendency to inspire the new settler with hope and energy, and to this fact may be attributed the large increase of settlers in this neighbourhood during the last three months. We found the harvest here to be a week earlier than at Sumass.

Leaving Chilliwack we proceeded along the eastern boundary of the settlement, in a southerly direction towards the mountains. Nature of country: burnt timber, with very thick undergrowth of hazel, berry, and rose-bushes, and considerable fallen timber. Soil, dark loam with clay subsoil. At the base of the mountains, and probably three miles from the Chilliwack Settlement, we crossed a large prairie about six miles long and from two to four wide, covered with blue joint grass, and in places pea-vine. Although at present perfectly dry, it might, in consequence of its natural drainage being obstructed by beaver dams, be at certain seasons wet, possibly partly submerged; but being much higher than high-water mark on the Fraser, there would be little difficulty in removing this objection. This prairie is about eight miles from the Chilliwack landing; and between it and Cheam, and approaching near the river, two smaller prairies are found, each of about one mile in extent.

Leaving the large prairie, and travelling east towards Cheam, we crossed a grove of very fine green timber (fir) situated about five miles from Chilliwack Settlement, and bordering on the Cheam Slough; and two miles further on we came upon another fine belt of alder land, something similar in extent to that west of Matsqui. The nature of the soil, black loam with clay bottom. The soil here is very deep. The surface of the country level and comparatively free from undergrowth.

Nearly all this country embraced within the following boundaries, viz.: Chilliwack on the west and Cheam on the east, a distance of twelve miles, and Fraser River on the north (including islands) to the mountains on the south, a distance of fifteen miles, may be safely set down as containing more rich agricultural land unoccupied than any other section of the same extent within the limits explored. Although nearly all timbered, it is of a nature requiring no great amount of labour in clearing, if I may except the fir timber which is always more or less hard to get rid of. But the settler must remember he has only the timber to contend with. Here he is free from floods; and no stones exist to cover his land with unsightly heaps after the labour of clearing away the timber is finished. Towards the mountains the timber becomes more scattering, and fern openings and thick undergrowth are met with.

Leaving the valley we commenced the ascent of "Discovery" Mountain, which is situated at the eastern extremity of the valley. Perhaps the most extended view to be had on the Lower Fraser is from this mountain. From here the river can be traced through all its windings, eighty miles to the gulf; and looks still and motionless in the distance. New Westminster can be seen with the naked eye, and every settlement along the river can be readily distinguished. Sumass and Chilliwack, the former seventeen, the latter twelve miles away, appear almost at our feet. Here also can be seen, in the country between Chilliwack and Cheam, new openings made by recent settlers.

Turning to the south, and within one hour's walk from this peak, we came out upon an open country, miles in extent, of benches and rolling hills, covered with a species of fine bunch grass, and dotted here and there with groves of stunted pines.

The existence of this country has been known to the Cheam Indians for years; and according to them no white man has ever been there. I have also the information from the Indians who accompanied me, that winter commences there in October, and ends in April. This country would be valuable as a summer range for stock, especially sheep. The best approach to it from the Fraser, would be up the valley of a creek which empties into the Fraser eight miles above Cheam; but I am of the opinion that this open stretch of country extends through to the valley of the Similkameen.

Returning to the river we explored round the Cheam Islands. On two of these islands, settlement has already commenced; but miles of unoccupied land still remain. These islands are lightly timbered with fir, cedar, and white birch; with undergrowth of hazel, rose-bush, &c. The soil is the usual alluvial deposit, covered with vegetable mould, and has proved, so far, to be very productive; in fact we found here everything in the shape of root crops, vegetables, &c., which are common to the climate of British Columbia, growing in great luxuriance.

Between Cheam and Hope.—Between Cheam and Hope no unoccupied land of any extent was found. Crossing the river at Hope, we commenced our explorations westward along the northern bank. Between Hope and Agassiz Landing, a distance of twenty-five miles, there is very little worthy of note in the shape of agricultural land. Bare and rugged mountains, with here and there small stretches of land mostly timbered with cottonwood, and subject to overflow, make up this portion of the country. At Agassiz Landing occurs the first break in the mountains. This open stretch of country is partly occupied, and one of the best cultivated farms met with in the district is to be seen here. The country as far back as the mountains is lightly timbered, with here and there open patches of grass and fern land, and clumps of vine-maple and hazel bushes; and very little difficulty would be experienced in clearing any portion of it. Soil, dark loam with clay subsoil.

At the northern extremity of this open country is found a valley or pass in the mountains, about six miles long and three wide, leading to the foot of Harrison Lake. Some very good land is met with here. The valley is thinly timbered with fir and cedar (burnt). Near Harrison Lake the land is low and wet. Two Cranberry Marshes, the largest about 200 acres, are also found here.

From this point we proceeded down the Fraser to Harrisonmouth, thence up the Harrison River and Lake. Along this route the mountains hem in both rivers closely; and with the exception of a tract of wet grass land (400 acres), no unoccupied land was met with, although we ascended the mountains at different points to obtain a view of the surrounding country. At the foot of the lake, to the right, and about half a mile from its junction with the river, is situated a hot spring, the steam arising from which can be seen from some distance as we approach it.

Leaving Harrison River we proceeded down the Fraser about three miles, and entered what is known as Harris' Slough. Prairie land is met with both on the islands and mainland; this however is nearly all occupied. The slough is about ten miles long, and enters the Fraser at a point opposite Sumass Mountain. The best piece of unoccupied land bordering on the slough, was found near its head on the mainland; its extent about six hundred acres, lightly timbered.

Leaving the slough we travelled westward to a lake; thence across the lake to a valley. The extent of this valley is about 1,500 acres, is partly occupied as a range for stock, and is subject to overflow. No unoccupied high land, fit for agricultural purposes, was found bordering on this valley, the mountains almost closing it in on three sides. In the centre of the lake, at the foot of the valley, is an island containing about five hundred acres of the best land met with on the trip down. The soil is the same met with on the Cheam Islands.

Reaching St. Mary's Mission we proceeded back to the foot of the mountains, a distance of about five miles. The features of the country here are somewhat different from any met with on the south side of the river. The land is rolling, and stretches of open fern land occur very often. I mean by fern land, land over which the fire has passed, destroying the timber and undergrowth, and upon which fern has sprung up. Here, also, is found the first noticeable difference in the soil from that met with on the south side, which is nearly all formed by alluvial deposits and decayed vegetable matter. The soil here is a sort of red clay, mixed with sand and gravel, and is formed, no doubt, by the decomposition of rocks, and, to judge from its lightness, would not long retain its strength. Between this fern land and the river, and about one mile from the latter, is situated a belt of alder bottom three miles in extent, the surface of which is broken, and in places wet and swampy. Along the base of the mountain, down as far as Stave River, the country is heavily timbered with fir and cedar, and the soil gravelly.

Following Stave River up as far as the lake, very little agricultural land. Some very fine timber (cedar and white-pine).

Between Stave River and the Keatsy and Pitt Meadows, the country resembles that met with between Stave River and the "Mission;" it is nearly all timbered, stretches of fern land. Soil gravelly.

Crossing the Keatsy and Pitt Meadows, up Pitt River to head of lake, thence back, round foot of the mountains, to Lillooet River. No unoccupied high land fit for agricultural purposes except a small stretch of timbered land situated near the mouth of Lillooet River.

Pitt River Meadows.—Pitt River contains an area of nearly 20,000 acres, which is subject to overflow from all sides. The whole plain is nearly surrounded by water so that dyking is, in my opinion, out of the question. A great many stretches of cranberry marsh are met with through this country to Keatsy.

Between Pitt River and Burrard Inlet no exploration was made.

It will be seen from this Report, that the greater amount of agricultural land lies on the south side of the river, and that the places most available for immediate settlement are in the vicinity of the Langley settlement, between Langley and Matsqui, in the neighbourhood of the latter place, and between Chilliwack and Cheam.

ABRIDGED REPORT OF EXPLORATION, BY MR. E. MOHUN IN 1873, EAST COAST OF VANCOUVER ISLAND BETWEEN FORT RUPERT AND MENZIES BAY.

Sacquash.—Between Fort Rupert and Clickseway, extensive ranges of open grass swamps; but country is not well adapted for settlement; needs draining.

Malcolm Island.—Malcolm Island contains about 13,000 acres, but no prairie land is on it; the timber is open on the northern shore, less so on south side. Soil generally of fair quality; but water scarce.

Nimkish River.—The Nimkish River is a large stream, canoe navigation not bad, no open land on this stream. Soil inferior.

Needgigas or Karmutzeen River.—Into this lake, at its south-eastern extremity, the Needgigas or

Karmutzeen (falling water) River (and marked upon the chart as the Kla-anch, but not known among the Indians by any such name) falls. Navigation not good—the valley widens seven miles up, and the banks are usually low, level, alluvial flats. The good land on this stream is estimated at about 6000 acres, most of which would not be expensive clearing. Unfortunately, available land is cut up into detached blocks by the mountain spurs and gravel ridges which run down to the stream.

Beaver Cove.—Up the Cokish River, which debouches into Beaver Cove near the base of Mount Holdsworth, a beautiful little valley, well watered, and containing about 1500 acres. Here there is a chain of grass prairies, varying from two or three to fifteen acres; and divided from each other by clumps of alder and patches of berry bushes. The whole of this valley might be easily cleared, while there is abundance of timber along its sides for all farming purposes. The soil is of first class quality.

Adams River, or Hilatti.—Adams River is a large rapid stream. At the mouth, an extensive flat of 8000 acres, of which, probably, 4000 are suitable for settlement; the soil is very good; the timber, open and easily cleared. Ascending the river, detached flats, of from one to two hundred acres, divided from each other by mountain spurs, are passed; most of these are of good alluvial soil. There is a trail though but little travelled, which, following a fork of this stream, crosses a low divide into the valley of Salmon River.

Salmon River or Kusam.—Last, but not least on the list, Salmon River claims attention. This is a large stream, the sources of which are believed to lie in the neighbourhood of Mount Washington and Alexandra Peak, while two considerable tributaries take their rise from Victoria Peak and Crown Mountain respectively, and add considerably to its volume in the low portion of the river. The main stream itself is far from rapid, at all events at low water, and is easily navigable for canoes for some twenty miles from its mouth; the current though strong, is not sufficiently so to render its ascent a matter of difficulty even to inexperienced canoemen, the riffles being unimportant and nowhere dangerous. It is believed that at moderate stages of the water, light draught steamers would be able to ascend ten or twelve miles. The valley may be described as about twenty miles long, varying in width from one and a half to five miles. It is estimated to contain 40,000 acres of land, of which at least 25,000 are eminently adapted for settlement. In these figures it has been my endeavour rather to under than over-estimate. The soil throughout from one mountain range to the other is of very superior quality. On the banks of the river there is usually a narrow belt of timber, cedar, hemlock, and a little red fir and spruce, beyond this one finds dry alder bottoms with the trees ten or fifteen feet apart, while grass sometimes and sometimes berry bushes represent the underbrush; small fern prairies, of from five to ten acres, and clumps of hemlock and spruce are scattered throughout the whole valley, and with the exception that towards the mouth the soil is inclined to be rather more swampy than above, this is its character for twenty miles. In many places there is excellent feed to be found on the base of the mountains. Still higher up the river there is a considerable quantity of white pine, of fair size. The next consideration which presents itself is as to the modes of reaching this valley, of which there are two. One may be dismissed in a very few words, and is the only one at present available, viz., by canoe from Salmon Bay.

The other is by trail from Menzies Bay which presents the following advantages:—

Firstly,—Menzies Bay is a good harbour, and lies to the southward of the Seymour Narrows.

Secondly,—That it is directly on the line of the projected railway.

Thirdly,—That it is no great distance from the head of the proposed settlement; and,

Lastly,—That the country is favourable for trail making.

The only obstacle appears to be a large lake, which extends from the Menzies Mountain many miles to the southward. Even this, however, offers a convenient place for crossing, since two opposing points stretch far into the lake, and only leave a gap of some three hundred feet to bridge.

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